



ESTABLISHED 1859

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regularly supplied to every member of
NINE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETIES
in the British Empire.

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OUR DIARY FOR 1897.

As our stock of DIARIES is getting low we recommend any
who wish extra copies to apply for them without delay.

OUR WINTER NUMBER.

THE Winter Number of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST will
be published on January 30, 1897, and we are prepared to
insert in it circulars and price-lists supplied by advertisers.
Would those who think of doing this communicate with our
Publisher at once, so that he may give them instructions
which are necessary for the printers?

DIARY POSTCARD COMPETITION.

EACH copy of the 1897 DIARY which we have sent out con-
tains a coupon postcard upon which the recipients are
invited to write answers to the eight questions printed on
the card. We are to give ten guineas in prizes to those who
give the best answers, but if any wish to be *hors concours*—
i.e., wish to compete without taking the money—they may do
so, when their share will go to the next best, or they may
give the card to an employé or wife, daughter, son, sister,
&c. Home subscribers will please send in their card by
December 31, and those abroad must post theirs by January
20, 1897.

Summary.

A DALBEATTIE druggist has been found drowned (p. 843).

MESSRS. A. S. HILL & SON and Davy, Yates & Hicks have
amalgamated their businesses (p. 864).

THE Prince of Wales is to open the Davy-Faraday Research
Laboratory in Christmas week (p. 872).

SOUTH NORWOOD chemists have combined to minimise
the results of the advent of a "cutter" (p. 842).

THE rumours that Messrs. Eno's and Blondeau's businesses
are to be sold to limited companies are not correct (p. 865).

MR. E. M. HOLMES communicated an interesting paper to
the Pharmaceutical Society on the source of myrrh (p. 847).

MR. MARSHALL LEIGH, who was from 1839 to 1894 a
member of the Pharmaceutical Council, died on Tuesday
(p. 858).

MR. DAVID HOWARD has described the conditions for
testing the purity of quinine so as to ensure the detection of
inferior alkaloids (p. 846).

EDINBURGH assistants, led off by Mr. C. F. Henry, have
been endeavouring to answer some knotty pharmaceutical
problems, such as What is liq. taraxaci? (p. 852).

IN Mr. A. E. Fletcher's paper on the history of the
alkali trade statistics are given of the output in this
country during the past twenty-five years (p. 849).

THE Pharmaceutical Chemists' and Apothecaries' Assist-
ants' Association of Ireland have voted for the adoption of
THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST as their journal (p. 858).

MR. BREMRIDGE has informed the Glasgow Association
that it is not expected the Pharmaceutical Council can do
anything to lessen the prescribing of proprietary medicines
(p. 850).

THE Dutch Government has granted a pension of 100*l.* a
year to Mr. Charles Ledger, the cinchona pioneer. We urged
the justice of such a grant after the Dutch Government had
refused the grant (p. 865).

MR. GEDDES, agent for St. Jacobs oil, is fighting the
Bradford chemists, who recommended him to join the P.A.T.A.
and protect the prices. He tells the public to go to Taylor's
drug stores and the like (p. 847).

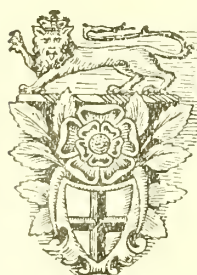
A NORTH LONDON chemist has been summoned under the
Shop Hours Act for employing two apprentices eighty-five
hours in the week. The summons was dismissed this time
on payment of the costs (p. 862).

WE call attention on page 857 to an error in our DIARY
for 1897, in which it is stated that Messrs. Symes & Co.
(Limited), of Liverpool, had not protected the title of their
lac bismuthi. This we now find they have done by all
available legal form.

TWO Ealing chemists have been fined under the Sale of
Food and Drugs Act, for selling "arsenical soap" in which
no arsenic could be found. The decision is to be appealed
against on the legal question whether the soap is a drug
(p. 831).

MEETINGS in support of the P.A.T.A. have been held at
Bournemouth (p. 854) and at Stoke-on-Trent (p. 855). The
Glasgow chemists, on the other hand, have condemned it
(p. 850), and so has the Patent-medicine Vendors' Defence
Association (Limited) (p. 855). Day's Southern Drug Com-
pany (Limited) have sent in a memorial to the proprietors of
Scott's pills, protesting against the advance in price, signed
by 2,480 of their customers (p. 855).

THE Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland have
discussed the *Truth* paragraph in reference to the British
and Irish examinations, and they are not satisfied with the
reply they have received from Bloomsbury Square as to the
statement on this subject, which the editor of *Truth* alleged
he had received from that quarter (p. 847). *Truth* this
week returns to the subject, and incidentally maintains the
accuracy of its previous statement (p. 816).



English News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

Sudden Death in a Chemist's Shop.

A sad death occurred in the shop of Mr. Hasselby, chemist, of Eversfield Place, Hastings, on Thursday evening of last week. Mr. William Austin, of 114 Milward Road, Hastings, entered the shop about 5 o'clock and complained of feeling unwell. He was provided with a chair, but before a draught could be administered he reeled over and fell upon the floor. Dr. Hewland was immediately summoned, but Mr. Austin expired a few minutes after his arrival. He was formerly in the employ of a firm of drapers, and is said to have been in ill-health for some time.

The Order of the Golden Lamb.

The Mayor of Harrogate, Mr. John H. Wilson, J.P., has received from Mr. H. S. Wellcome a gold pendant for the watch-chain in the form of a lamb. The ornament is intended as a souvenir of the Carlisle Medical Association Museum, where Mr. Wilson took an active part at a dinner at which the B. W. & Co.'s lamb, "Lano," was christened. On the base of the pendant is inscribed a verse from Mr. Wilson's poem, which was recited on that occasion:—

Wellcome had a little lamb,
Its neck was decked with blue,
It bleated merrily above
To the codfish down below.

The gift is also a recognition of the election of Mr. Wilson to the mayoralty of his borough.

Fire.

A slight fire broke out on December 2 on the premises of Messrs. Reynolds & Branson, 13 Briggate, Leeds. It originated in the cellar-area among a quantity of crates and hampers, and but for the prompt arrival of the fire-brigade the damage might have been serious, as the burning mass was only separated by a wooden door from a large quantity of naphtha, ether, and other inflammable materials stored in the cellar.

Chemists at Football.

Pharmaceutical Football Club v. Metropolitan College of Pharmacy (Watson Will's). The above match was played on Saturday last at Wormholt Farm, and resulted in a victory for the home team. Scores: Metropolitan, 1; Pharmaceutical, 3. Team: Lean, goal; Jones and Miles, backs; Nelson, Webster, and Smith, half-backs; Cardwell, Happold, Fothergill (centre), Tebbutt, and Day, forwards.

Another Young Man.

On Monday a well-known drug-firm in London was called upon by a respectable-looking man who said he was a son of Mr. John Thompson, of Liverpool, with whom the London firm have had dealings. He picked up THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST, and proceeded to speak about business matters with apparent knowledge of terms, &c., and said that his father was to send on a large order for the firm's speciality in the course of the week. Meanwhile he gave instructions as to the execution of the order, how it should be packed for South Africa, and other particulars; then he gradually veered round to a more personal matter—viz., that he and his wife were living in an hotel, and there he had had his money stolen. He was clever enough not to ask for money, but the tale was so told that it brought out some temporary assistance, given to get rid of him. A letter to Mr. Thompson has brought the reply that he has no son, and he writes to us warning the trade about the man. Probably the visitor may call upon other firms in the city, so we may

state that he is a stoutish man, about 5 feet 9 inches high, fair and with moustache, about 35, is well dressed, and speaks as a man who has been well brought up.

Pills Suspected.

At Southampton, on December 3, an inquest was held concerning the death of Walter Christopher Hendley (15), of the Gordon Boys' Brigade. The parents of the lad stated that, as he had a headache, he took on the previous Monday two dandelion pills—part of a penny box of pills which he purchased at the Southern Drug Company's stores in Bavors Valley. During the night he became worse, and Dr. Breton was sent for and attended. The doctor said he found the boy delirious, and suffering from intense diarrhoea and vomiting. His temperature was 105°. The boy died on Wednesday morning. He had made a *post-mortem* examination of the body and found the general condition almost normal. The symptoms were consistent with irritant poisoning, and the *post-mortem* examination confirmed this. Death was due to collapse and violent vomiting. The inquest was adjourned till Tuesday, December 22, in order that the contents of the stomach might be analysed and further inquiries made.

The Battle of Norwood.

We announced last week that a drug company was fitting up a new shop at 66 High Street, South Norwood, and would open in about ten days. Now we notice that the six established chemists of South Norwood—namely Messrs. Baldock & Co., Beale & Son, Cullen & Co., J. Jenkins, Harding Rees, and C. E. White—have issued the following "important announcement":—

THE undersigned Chemists, having completed arrangements by which they are enabled to buy all Goods required in their Business on the most advantageous terms, have decided that on and after this date they will sell the same at

GREATLY REDUCED PRICES FOR CASH.

Each Business will remain under the personal control of the Principal, thus ensuring that careful attention to the requirements of each customer which is so essential.

The quality of all Drugs and Chemicals will continue to be of the very best.

Special attention will be given to the Dispensing of Prescriptions, which will be charged at the reduced rates.

To enable them successfully to carry on this system, they hope for and confidently expect a large increase of business, and

APPEAL TO THE PUBLIC FOR THEIR CO-OPERATION.

feeling certain that the prices charged will compare favourably with those paid elsewhere.

Under no circumstances can goods be booked at the reduced prices.

The signatures of all the chemists named are appended. *One of the Six* writes to us as follows:—

In last week's issue you mention that Winton's Drug Company are about to open a branch in South Norwood. The district is comparatively small, and there are already six of us; so we hardly longed for any addition to our ranks, especially of the so-called "company" class.

Still, as that fate was to befall us, we all met and talked the matter over and decided on a combined plan of campaign. We did not wait for the enemy to arrive, but commenced by sending out about 15,000 of enclosed circulars, and inserting same as bold advertisement in the two local papers. We shall thus give the new-comers a right warm reception, and intend that the temperature pharmaceutical shall be maintained at a very high point so long as may be necessary. The novelty, of course, is in the fact of all combining, even for their own interests—so unusual in our craft. I should like to say that it has already proved a very marked success in the matter of buying, and has resulted in considerable saving. The novelty of the step has caused much talk amongst the residents, and received favourable comments in the Press. In a year's time I will let you know the results—i.e., if there be any of us left to tell the tale.

Theft of Scent and Soap.

At Southport Police Court, on December 4, five lads, named John Crompton, Joseph Fowler, Arthur Garner, Nathan Barton, and Richard Boardman, were charged with stealing a dozen bottles of scent and six tablets of soap from the shop of Mr. Frederick Wolstenholme, druggist, 70 Duke Street. From the evidence, it appeared that the prisoners stole the articles on the previous Saturday evening. It was stated that they were members of a gang who had been shoplifting very night for the past fortnight. Garner and Fowler were

each sentenced to 14 days' hard labour, and the others were discharged with a caution.

Tragic Death from Carbolic Acid.

Mrs. Ellen Harral (30), wife of a clothier in Huddersfield, died on Wednesday, December 2, from carbolic-acid poisoning. Late on the previous night Mr. Harral and a friend, Mr. F. Reeder, were in the sitting-room of Mr. Harral's house. They had been smoking, and Mrs. Harral, who had been with them, had gone to the kitchen beneath. They heard her call, and, going to her, found her in a very excited state, clutching at her throat, and liquid, which smelt like carbolic acid, flowing from her mouth. A large bottle nearly full of carbolic acid was on the table. A doctor was sent for, and he used every means to restore Mrs. Harral, but she died in his presence about two o'clock the next morning. The bottle of carbolic acid had been left at the house by the Corporation Sanitary Department men some weeks ago by mistake. At the time Mrs. Harral said, "Never mind, we will keep it now it is here. It may be useful."



Irish News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

The Chemists' and Druggists' Society (North Branch)

At a committee meeting held on December 4 at 10 Roya Avenue, Belfast, Sir James Haslett, M.P., in the chair, the recent prosecution of a country druggist for mixing poisons was considered. In the case in question a cow had died, and an action was taken against the druggist for illegally prescribing and mixing poisons. The summons was dismissed, but the plaintiff meant to take the case to a higher court. The Law Committee were instructed to watch the action. A discussion also took place as to retail prices, and it was decided at the next meeting to have a debate on the question whether a standard and uniform price could be arranged for drugs, chemicals, and patent medicines. Mr. W. J. Rankin to open in the affirmative, and Mr. James Richardson in the negative.

More about Drug-contracts.

Sir George Owens, who is a Governor of the Richmond Lunatic Asylum, Dublin, has called attention to the manner in which contracts for drugs and medicines are given away without being brought before the Board. Theirs was a most important contract, and it was only fair to the drug-trade that it should be put up to competition. It was pointed out that the Board had already decided to leave the contract in the hands of the Medical Superintendent, but Sir George was not satisfied.

A Medical Boycott.

Owing to internal friction the entire medical staff of Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, with one exception, have resigned. It is probable the dispute will be heard of in the law-courts.

Drug contracts.

Mr. J. Nethery, chemist, of Dungannon, has obtained the contract for the supply of medicines to the Enniskillen Union.

The Governors of Londonderry Asylum have accepted the tender of Galbraith & Co., chemists of that town, for the supply of oils, paints, &c.

Took the Bottleful.

Mr. James Cantwell (63), formerly in the Valuation Office, died at his residence, Cabra, Dublin, on December 2. His wife had at his wish purchased for him a bottle of

Dr. Leonard's "lung tonic" at Dr. Leonard's Medical Hall, North Earl Street. The label on the bottle directed that a "teaspoonful" should be taken every four hours, but the deceased took the entire contents of the bottle, and died early the next morning. At the inquest his widow deposed that deceased was in the habit of taking the lung tonic. Dr. Whelan, who had attended him for the past two and a half years, said death was due to heart disease, accelerated by the overdose of morphia. Mr. James Charles McWalter, manager of Dr. Leonard's establishment, stated that he had entered the contents of the lung-tonic prescription as required by law. Dr. Leonard was a duly-qualified apothecary. Witness was a qualified pharmaceutical chemist, and there were three other qualified chemists employed in the shop. The ingredients of the bottle were syrup of Virginian prune, honey of squill, pure glycerine, syrup of lemons, ipecacuanha wine, all of which were perfectly harmless, and a small proportion of morphia. In each teaspoonful—the prescribed dose—there was $\frac{1}{20}$ gr. of morphia. Mr. Cantwell had taken the mixture frequently before, and it had done him good. The jury found that death was due to heart disease, accelerated by the deceased having taken an overdose of morphia by misadventure, and they added that no blame of any kind attached to Dr. Leonard or his establishment.

Registered Druggists as Accurate Dispensers.

The following is cut from the *Irish Times* :—

REGISTERED Druggist desires engagement; long city experience; accurate dispenser and good counterhand; highest references.—F 1559, this office.

This seems a cool disregard of Section 30 of the Pharmacy Act, 1875.



Scotch News

The Editor is obliged to correspondents who send local newspapers containing items of interest to the trade. He will be further obliged if such paragraphs be marked in all cases.

A Druggist Drowned.

The body of Mr. John Hume, druggist, Dalbeattie, was found on the sands of the Solway, in the parish of Newabbey, last week. Hume (whose name is not on the register) left home a few weeks ago, and was last heard of from Annan.

Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association.

A meeting of the Edinburgh District Chemists' Trade Association was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on December 3, Mr. J. Bowman (President) in the chair. There was a small attendance. The Chairman's address was principally devoted to the subject of competition by companies, especially of the so called one-man companies. It seemed to savour of effrontery for them to discuss decisions of the great law lords, but those not trained in the subtleties of the law, but very much affected by such decisions, might be allowed to express what seemed to them a common-sense view of the case. He narrated the action which had established that a company was outside the Pharmacy Act, and said their business was being exploited by capitalists, the boldest of whom appropriated their titles and puff'd themselves in the public prints and otherwise to the effect that, owing to circumstances which were beyond the reach of any single individual, "they"—possibly he should use the neuter pronoun, seeing that "it" was neither a person or persons—were able to give the public 21s. for their 12. He maintained that it was not good for pharmacy or the public weal, nor fair to the man who conscientiously qualified himself for the vocation of a

pharmacist, to have to compete with those who had no interest in pharmacy except to wring out a 5 or 10 per cent profit. He deprecated the disloyalty of those members of the craft who, for some slight temporary advantage, lent themselves to parties who were doing what they could to degrade the business in which they had been at considerable pains and expense to become proficient.

Mr. David McLaren, Edinburgh, who proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Bowman, spoke of the efforts of the Pharmaceutical Council to get the present state of things remedied. He argued that chemists still had great power to maintain the dignity of their profession. There was a tendency to follow the lead of the stores, and to bring their prices down to the store level. He contended that they could ignore the store prices and fix their own prices. They should be well remunerated for dispensing, and they should uphold not only the standard of their drugs, but their charges for them.

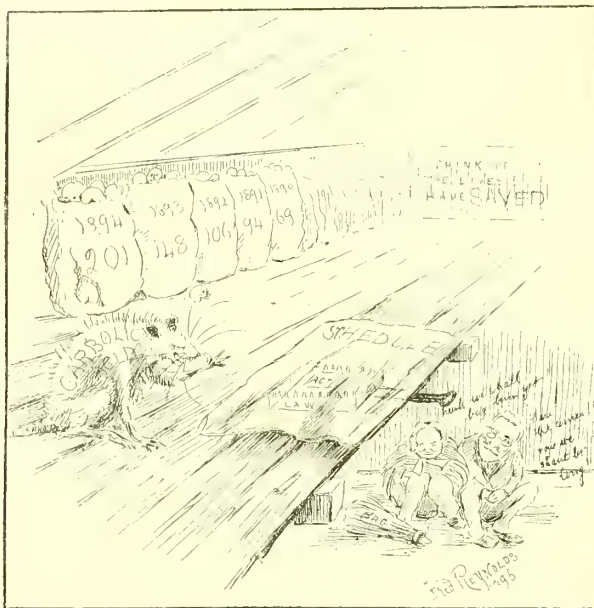
Mr C F Henry, Hon. Secretary, said he had received a letter from the Secretary of the Inverness Chemists' Association which contained the following excerpt from their minutes:—"Having regard to the supply of drugs, &c., by wholesale houses to the unqualified—to wit, the stores—the members of this Association recommend that chemists support only wholesale houses which do not actually trade with and encourage the store system, and that each association forward the recommendation to the neighbouring association. The members of the Inverness Association invite the co operation of your Association to give practical effect to the above recommendation."

The Chairman said the committee had had this letter under consideration, and they resolved to recommend that this Association should do nothing in the matter.

After a few remarks from Mr. R. Aitken, Mr. Duncan McGlashan, and Mr. Peter Boa, in support of this course, it was unanimously agreed to. The annual ball was fixed for Thursday, January 21. It will be held in Freemasons' Hall. The following were appointed the committee to carry out the arrangements:—Messrs. MacDougall (convener), Henry Boa, McLaren, D. McGlashan, and the Chairman.

Manufacturing Chemist's Suicide.

Mr George Walker, manufacturing chemist, Glasgow, was on Monday morning found dead in a field east of Glasgow with his throat cut. He had been in a despondent state for some time. Mr. Walker, who was 44 years of age, was a partner of the firm of G. Walker & Son, manufacturing chemists, drug-merchants, and drysalters, and was well known and highly respected in business circles in Glasgow.



"NOT SCHEDULED YET!"

(C. & D., December 5.)

Foreign and Colonial News.

"ELLIMAN'S UNIVERSAL EMBROCATION" is now a registered trade-mark in the United States.

SINGULAR POISONING CASE.—Mrs. Gower, of Wickham, N.S.W., was poisoned recently under singular circumstances. One of her children broke a bottle of eye-lotion and spilt the contents on a plate off which Mrs. Gower ate bread. The woman soon afterwards died.

THE NEW YORK COLLEGE OF PHARMACY is proud of the fact that their coloured janitor—Wellington Schuyler, by name—has been appointed a special policeman by the Police Board. He is the first negro to be so honoured.

ENGLISH ALKALI IN MEXICO.—Caustic soda in drums is very largely used throughout Mexico in making soap. It is exclusively English, says a correspondent of the *National Druggist*, because cheaper, and, unless the English price can be met, this large trade will remain in English hands.

PAN-AMERICAN PHARMACOPŒIA.—A movement is on foot to provide a Pharmacopœia for the whole of America. It is promoted by the Pan-American Congress which met in Mexico last month, Professor Joseph P. Remington, of Philadelphia, acting as chairman of the Pharmacopœia Committee.

THE SALE OF OPIUM LICENCES AT COLOMBO.—The retail licences for the sale of opium and bhang during the year 1897 at Colombo were offered for sale by auction on October 20. The attendance was fair, but there was a dearth of competition, and the offers with one exception fell below those of previous years.

ENTERPRISING PHARMACISTS IN INDIA.—Few private pharmaceutical firms could boast for many-sidedness that of A. John & Co., of Agra, India. Among other branches of their somewhat composite business they are coach-builders, cabinet-makers, house-decorators, and proprietors of the Agra and Meerut ice-factories. Lately they have added to their responsibilities by opening an extensive spinning and weaving mill, which will give constant employment to 800 hands. The new mill has been erected on the bank of the Jumna, at Agra, immediately opposite one of the many historic tombs that have caused Agra to be named the "City of Marble Mosques." The factory is a private concern, and is owned by members of the John family; the factory and machinery have been erected at a cost of about 59,000*l*. The house is one of the oldest private firms in India, having been founded in 1804 by Mr. Antony John, a Greek merchant. Their pharmaceutical business is an important one in the North-West and not the smallest of their various enterprises. The mill was opened on November 13 by the Commissioner of Agra, and Messrs. John gave a fancy-dress ball in celebration of the event.

A NEW AUSTRALIAN CHEMICAL-FACTORY.—The chemical-works of Elliott Brothers (Limited), Balmain, N.S.W., have been considerably enlarged recently. The chief extension is in the new sulphur-works, for which machinery was specially purchased in Europe by Dr. J. Elliott. The new process of treating sulphur by the "tower" system has been adopted. A new building for the general treatment of medicinal drugs has been added to the works. It covers a space of 32,000 square feet, and the machinery was specially imported from France, England, and elsewhere. The pill department is also a new feature, and is fitted with machinery capable of turning out 40,000 pills an hour. Special machinery has been put down for the treatment of sarsaparilla, cascara sagrada, cinchona, and eye-stuffs, and there are separate departments for logwood, fastic, &c. New rooms for the manufacture of scale preparations have been built, and there are granulating-rooms and departments for the manufacture of tinctures and perfumery. Bismuth preparations are manufactured direct from the ore—an entirely new departure. It is estimated that the additions will give employment to fifty or sixty extra hands.

MAURITIUS imported 85,763*l*. worth of "apothecary's ware" in 1895, and 76,793*l*. worth in 1894. The imports of perfumery were valued respectively at 43,820*l*. and 41,656*l*., of soap at 43,324*l*. and 68,801*l*.

Festivities.

THE WESTMINSTER COLLEGE.

THE annual dinner of the Westminster College of Chemistry and Pharmacy, which was held at the Holborn Restaurant on December 4, was of a novel character. Besides being the occasion for the distribution of prizes, it was taken advantage of to celebrate the twenty-first birthday of Mr. Wills's eldest daughter. A large number of ladies joined in the dinner, the speeches were brief and brisk, and at half-past nine the company adjourned from the Throne Room to the King's Hall, where dancing was kept up till 2 A.M. The company at dinner numbered nearly 200. Mr. G. S. V. Wills was in the chair, and was surrounded by a number of past and present students, as well as by a number of personal friends. The year's report was read by Mr. E. Walden, the Secretary, and after detailing the work which had been done it stated that during the year 160 students entered College, 32 did not present themselves for examination, 83 passed the Pharmaceutical, and 11 Medical and other examinations.

A notable fact was that 11 Major students passed out of 12 who presented themselves for examination. To encourage students to prepare for the higher examination, the Principals had established scholarships, giving six months' free tuition to all students who passed the Minor at the first attempt, and also to prize-winners. A post-graduate course in the analysis of water, milk, drugs, food, &c., had also been founded at nominal fees.

The toast of "The Westminster College" was proposed by Mr. J. W. T. Morrison, who was in the College ten years ago, and who assured the present students that if they did not pass the examinations, the fault was not with the teachers; the examiners alone were to blame. Mr. Wills, in replying, stated that the College was established in 1872, and that since that time they had passed 3,349 students through the examinations. He occasioned considerable amusement by giving the result of a calculation that if all those successful students joined hands, allowing 6 feet for each, the ring would reach from the College in Trinity Square across London Bridge, up Chancery Lane, Newgate Street, and Holborn to 17 Bloomsbury Square, and back to the College by way of the Tower Bridge.

Mr. H. Wootton, B.Sc., then distributed the prizes, among them being silver medals for the following students:—

Chemistry and Physics.—Messrs. W. J. Allen, A. H. G. Coggin, T. B. Cornfoot, H. Davies, G. N. Edwards, and W. A. Knight

Botany.—Messrs. T. G. Hitt, W. A. Knight, J. D. Thomas, and S. C. G. Tweedy.

Pharmacy.—Messrs. W. J. Allen, W. T. Fore, T. L. Salter, and D. White

Materia Medica.—Messrs. C. E. Hickes, J. M. Rees, J. D. Thomas, and D. White.

Dispensing.—Messrs. H. Crookham, W. S. Davies, and E. Salthouse.

A silver medal is given in each of the five subjects of instruction in each of the four sessions of the year. A large number of certificates were also distributed. The last event before the dancing began was the presentation of a dressing-case with an illuminated address to Miss Wills by Mr. W. O. Williams on behalf of the students generally.

CINDERELLA.

On Thursday, December 3, the Chemists' Assistants' Association opened the Second Series of Cinderellas at Portman Rooms, Baker Street, W., with a good attendance of dancers and a programme of sixteen items, Mr. C. W. Martin acting as M.C., and Bacon's Quadrille Band supplying the music. It was an exceptionally enjoyable affair, and as no bigwigs were present there was an absence of that starchiness which is apt to go with them. The dancing commenced at 7.30, and continued, with a twenty minutes' interval, until midnight.

THE NORTHERN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY.

The day students of the above college were entertained at tea on Saturday, December 5, by the Principal, Mr. Geo. Clayton, at the Alexandra Hotel, Manchester. The tea was

followed by a smoking-concert, at which an admirable programme of both vocal and instrumental music was rendered.

THE MIDLAND CHEMISTS' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION.

A smoking-concert was held on December 2 at Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, under the presidency of Mr. Harry Jessop. About fifty members and friends were present, and the performance was a conspicuous success. Mr. James (piano) and Mr. Pugh (violin) were the instrumentalists, Mr. F. H. Martin gave a recitation, and songs were contributed by Messrs. Jones, Wynne, Thompson, E. W. Brame, Hughee, T. T. Shorthouse, Ricketts, Osborne, T. Turner, and Lacy.

B. & F.'S C.C.

Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co.'s Cricket Club held their first annual smoking-concert at the Falstaff Restaurant last Friday. Mr. Frederick Allen, the town representative, took the chair at 7.30, and an excellent programme was carried out. The audience numbered over 300. Mr. Herbert Campbell's and Mr. Harry Bawn's songs were especially well received. During the interval Mr. Allen presented a bat (given by himself) to Mr. Moxon, the possessor of the highest batting average during the past season.

PARKE'S SPARKS.

The managers of the various branches of Parke's Druggists (Limited) held a dinner on December 2 at the Town Hall Tavern, Kensington, at which were present Mr. J. Murison, the managing director (in the chair), and Mr. J. C. Emslie, Secretary of the company. A very pleasant evening was spent.

Trade Notes.

MESSRS. SQUIRE & SONS, 413 Oxford Street, W., ask us to state that the dose of confection below recently given in their *C. & D. Diary* advertisement page 279, is a mistake. It should be a teaspoonful, not a tablespoonful as printed.

In the "Frog in your Throat" advertisement which appeared in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST last week (page 7), and which nobody could help seeing, the retail-price of the lozenges was quoted 9½d. We are sorry the mistake occurred, but in justification of our printers we must say that Mr. Garratt gave a peculiar little curl to his 7, which was very artistic, but somewhat confusing. The interesting fact, however, which will relieve the world's anxiety is that the price of "Frog in your Throat" has not been advanced. It remains at 7½d.

PETROLEUM EMULSION.—Messrs. Davies, Gibbins & Co. wholesale druggists, Derby, send us a sample of petroleum emulsion with lime and sodium hypophosphites which they are putting up for retail. It is a nice, white emulsion, with acid reaction, which mixes with water, and in the original state appears not to separate on standing. It is made with a purified petroleum, each fluid drachm containing 20 minims, and there are 2 gr. of the hypophosphites in that dose. From its pleasant taste, fluidity, and elegance the emulsion is likely to be a favourite, and the makers are prepared to meet the wishes of customers as to the manner of putting it up, although in the round amber bottle in which our sample is sent it leaves little to be desired regarding style.

PHOTOGRAPHIC DARK-ROOMS.—The following name should be added to the list given in the DIARY:—

Banchory.—Mr. A. Henderson.

Bournemouth.—Mr. H. B. Cox, Boscombe Park Pharmacy, Pokesdown.

Broughty Ferry.—Mr. W. Park, 91 Brook Street.

Ely.—Messrs. Oakes & Gardiner, late Knight's.

Lichfield.—Mr. A. E. Marshall, 7 Bird Street.

Lincoln.—Mr. D. S. Wark, 370 High Street.

Northallerton.—Mr. A. Fairburn.

Oldham.—Mr. C. Gartside, Hilton Arcade.

Ramsey, Isle of Man.—Mr. J. Pallister, 17 Parliament Street.

Ripley.—Mr. J. Wain, High Street.

Scarborough.—Mr. R. J. Simms, 5 Ramshill Road.

Wolverton.—Mr. W. Field, 2 Church Street.

Worcester.—Mr. W. T. Hornblow, 33 Sidney Street.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

ELECTION OF ANNUITANTS.

A MEETING of the Society was held on Tuesday for the purpose of scrutinising the votes sent in for the election of annuitants. Scrutineers having been appointed, they proceeded to count the votes, and later in the day, Mr. Walter Hills, President of the Society, being in the Chair, they submitted the following report:—

"We, the undersigned scrutineers, appointed at the thirty-second election of Annuitants on the Benevolent Fund of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, do hereby certify that we have examined the voting-papers committed to us, and report the following results:—Board, Marv, 5,110; Linford, Eliza Sarah, 10,535; Ramsden, George, 4,860; Young, Tonkin, 4,741.

EDWARD N. BUTT, *Chairman.*

W. Arkinstall,
Wm. W. Baker,
Henry Bate,
Henry C. Birch,
E. John Bull,
Walter T. Cooper,
F. W. Freeman,
John Holding,
W. King Hopkin,
D. R. Jacks,
D. L. Lewis,

Chas. W. Matthews,
A. J. Phillips,
Thos. Hy. Powell,
H. H. Presbury,
W. Prior Robinson,
Edwd B. Stamp,
S. A. Sturton,
T. Morley Taylor,
W. Warren,
H. Wiggins,
R. Fisher Young."

It was accordingly resolved that Mrs. Board, Mrs. Linford and Mr. George Ramsden be elected annuitants. A vote of thanks was accorded to the scrutineers.

EVENING MEETING.

Mr. Walter Hills presided at the meeting held on Tuesday evening. About sixty members and Associates were present. The first paper was one by Mr. David Howard on

THE TESTING OF QUININE,

which was read by his son, MR. DAVID LLOYD HOWARD, who explained that a special call of business prevented his father being present. Great progress, he proceeded to say, has been made in the testing of quinine since the last B.P. was published, and the almost exclusive use of Java cinchona has rendered it possible to apply more precise tests to the quinine made from it, as there is less chance for the alkaloid, being contaminated with inferior bases. The work of Pavy, De Vry, Hesse and others in this department of chemistry was gratefully referred to. It is not an easy matter to separate cinchonidine, &c., from quinine, because the various alkaloids crystallise out together. This fact has to be recognised in applying the ammonia test, which is official in the British and other Pharmacopœias, differing, however, in respect to details which determine the rigidity of the test. It depends primarily upon solution of the sulphate of quinine in water above normal temperature. As the solution cools, quinine sulphate crystallises out alone, down to 50° C., when cinchonidine joins it and covers the quinine crystals. This is also true of the manufactured article. To obviate the error arising from this physical condition the salt should be dried, then digested in water at 60° C., and not higher. After cooling, the greater proportion of the inferior alkaloids remain in solution along with some quinine. The amount of the latter remaining in solution depends upon the time that it is allowed to stand, and the higher the temperature of the water the more chance is there of quinine being returned as cinchonidine, &c. The next step is to take the cooled solution and add ammonia and ether to it; the ether is supposed to retain the quinine in solution while cinchonidine, &c., crystallises out, but under the B.P. conditions the difficulty of detecting cinchonidine in quinine is greatly increased. Mr. Howard commented upon suggestions which have been made at various times to improve the ammonia test, mentioning the curious fact that when pure quinine is added to the solution of sulphate much more ammonia is required for precipitation, and that the

addition of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of ammonium sulphate or sodium sulphate to quinine sulphate greatly reduces the solubility of the latter, so that there is much less of it in the mother-liquor, and consequently less crystallisation in the ammonia-ether mixture. It is advisable, therefore, to look for these inorganic sulphates in quinine sulphate, since a slight admixture permits the inclusion of a higher percentage of inferior alkaloids. Reviewing the whole matter, Mr. Howard thought it would be advisable to adopt Prunier's suggestion to dissolve the quinine in hot water, allow it to stand at 50° C. for several hours after, cooling slowly, then drain off the mother-liquor (which contains 98 per cent. of the cinchonidine present), and after evaporation to a small bulk, add to it the ammonia and a small volume of ether, when a distinct crystallisation is formed according to the percentage of cinchonidine present. This test does not detect hydro quinine, which is always present, but there is no special reason to guard against it, as it does not appear to differ therapeutically from quinine. He did not think it wise to insist upon the absolute purity demanded by the German Pharmacopœia, because it is expensive to eliminate the last 1 or 2 per cent. of inferior alkaloids, and experience in Germany goes to show that this degree of purity is not wanted, for the quinine of the previous edition of the Pharmacopœia is still in largest demand there. To the foregoing facts Mr. Howard added a number of manipulative details which were apparently intended to guide the Pharmacopœia Committee in formulating the official tests.

Mr. CHARLES UMNEY, in opening the discussion, said he was pleased that Mr. Lloyd Howard was present, because it kept up the continuity of the connection between the Society and the Stratford firm. (Hear, hear.) As a practical man who spent his life in the laboratory, Mr. Lloyd Howard was able to give them just the information they wanted, and he might be able to tell them something about the efflorescence of quinine sulphate, which was interesting commercial men. A parcel of 20,000 oz. of quinine had been sent to the United States, and on the voyage it lost 2 oz. or 3 oz., although the seals on the tins were intact. His son had found that this was due to loss of water, so that the quinine was really 102 to 103 per cent. in strength. The moral was that in testing quinine they should be sure that it was what they thought it to be, and to guard against mistakes an equivalent amount of the dried sulphate should be taken. He advocated a lower percentage of cinchonidine than the B.P. allows, but agreed that absolute purity was not necessary.

Dr. JOHN AITFIELD said that the difficulty of separating allied substances was known to all students of chemistry, and the difficulty specially applied to cinchona alkaloids. Mr. David Howard had been good enough to give the Pharmacopœia Revision Committee the benefit of his knowledge, and he had gone through most of the tests, and his advice would be well considered by the committee. In regard to the efflorescence of quinine he had seen the lids removed from the large bins of the salt in Howard's works, and they were all bedewed with moisture. Perhaps Mr. Howard could tell them if moisture in the sulphate could be determined by drying in a water oven. Few pharmacists had the means for drying it at 105 to 110° C., and as the Pharmacopœia was written chiefly for retailers it would be advisable to give a test which they could apply.

Mr. J. C. UMNEY said that if quinine sulphate is kept in a cool place—say, 60° F.—it retained its water of crystallisation. He had examined some five or six years old which contained 14.7 per cent. as against 15.2 per cent., the theoretical amount.

Mr. LLOYD HOWARD, in replying, said he hoped in the future to see more of the Society. His experience of the efflorescence of quinine tallied with Mr. J. C. Umney's, but he was inclined to put the temperature at which it should be kept lower than 60° F. There was no doubt as to the rapidity with which it loses water. If chemists placed their quinine in sealed 1-oz. bottles on a level with the gas-brackets they would find in a few days, on weighing, the contents of each to be about 400 gr. only. But there was not only this loss of moisture, but the changed appearance to be reckoned with. The sulphate became powdery, and crusted on the surface. He hoped the trade would in future remember that quinine sulphate should

be kept in a cool place. It was difficult to obtain the sulphate with a constant amount of water of crystallisation. If there was more than 16 per cent. it was clammy. Replying to Dr. Attfield, he said it was best to take a temperature for drying quinine of which they were sure, but there was nothing easier to dry than quinine. Exposed to the air for a day it came down to a salt containing 4.9 per cent. of water. At 100° C. it took twenty-four hours to get it down to the last molecule of H₂O, and he preferred to work at 103° C. If the recently precipitated and wet alkaloid was dried rapidly it became resinous on the surface, and the water was difficult to drive off in consequence; therefore, it should be heated at a moderate temperature first, then put in the hot chamber.

THE PRESIDENT, in thanking Mr. Howard for reading the paper, expressed the hope that they would have the pleasure of seeing him often at the meetings.

Mr. E. M. HOLMES, Curator of the Society's museums, then read a paper on

THE TREES YIELDING MYRRH.

He at once riveted interest by saying that myrrh is one of the oldest drugs known, and exhibited a specimen of it about 3600 years old. It was a queen of Egypt who first sent an expedition into Somaliland, or the Land of Punt, as it was then called, to collect the precious drug; and the expedition brought home thirty-one of the trees, which were planted round a temple. There is on the mural decorations of a temple erected by Thothmes III. a picture of a plant supposed to be the myrrh-tree of Socotra, but there are no myrrh-trees in that island now, as far as Bayley Balfour could ascertain when he visited the island. Other historical references to myrrh were recalled, and Mr. Holmes passed on to the myrrh of to-day. It is imported into this country from Aden, but some also comes from Bombay, whence it goes from Somaliland and Arabia. Four distinct commercial varieties of myrrh are recognised:—(1) Somali myrrh, which is the best, being those fine pieces that one picks to make mist. ferri co.; (2) the Arabian myrrh of Hanbury, consisting of conglomerated grains and a less powdery surface, but not quite so aromatic as the first; (3) the Arabian myrrh of Dymock, which differs only in colour from the Somali myrrh; and (4) Yemen myrrh, which does not give the characteristic bromine reaction and has a disagreeable odour, although agreeing in taste with ordinary myrrh. Mr. Holmes then showed on a lantern map the districts of North-Eastern Africa and the south-western portion of Arabia from which myrrhs are drawn. The Somaliland myrrh filters down to Berbera, a seaport town exactly opposite Aden, the Red Sea intervening, and there merchants of Bombay send their Aden agents to buy it at the great fair, which lasts from November to February; but the Bombay stuff is a collection of what is bought there and at Aden, to which various Arabian firms go, so that Bombay myrrh is really a mixture of half a dozen or more resins, which is true, in a measure, of all myrrhs. After referring to other kinds of myrrh which are mentioned in books, Mr. Holmes spoke of the botanical origin of the better-known species. The British Pharmacopœia gives Bentley and Trimen's *Balsamodendron Myrrha* as the source, on the authority of Hildebrandt; but recently Schweinfurth has said that this tree does not yield a resin at all, and these contradictory statements leave us in the dark as to the true origin of Somali myrrh. Examining their statements, and Dyer's criticism in the *Kew Bulletin*, one is almost led to the opinion that the tree which yields Somali myrrh has not been found. It was this knotty problem which Mr. Holmes attacked, aided by herbarium specimens which Schweinfurth has presented to the museum, taking into account collateral facts and specimens at hand. On the ground that "myrrh" means "bitter," he has tasted the barks of the various specimens, and the results are as follows:—

Commiphora abyssinica, which Schweinfurth says is the true source of Somali myrrh, is not bitter; therefore an unlikely source of the resin.

C. Schimperi, which is said to yield Arabian myrrh, is not bitter, and has not the flavour of myrrh. *C. simplicifolia* is also said to yield Arabian myrrh, but it has not the bitterness or flavour of myrrh. Mr. Holmes, therefore, concludes that these plants cannot yield myrrh.

C. Myrrha (Nees), collected by Wykeham Perry in Arabia, has the very bitter taste and characteristic flavour of

myrrh, and Mr. Holmes comes to the conclusion that this is the true source of myrrh, and that Schweinfurth is wrong, probably being misled by not having noticed the fact that the *Commiphora Myrrha* of Ergler is not identical with that described by Nees. Lantern-slides showed these differences in a marked manner. Commercial myrrh consists of a number of resins, of which only a few have been identified by Mr. Holmes—viz. *C. africana*, whose taste agrees with the drug known as African bdellium, *C. Opobalsamum*, which possesses the characteristic taste of Mecca balsam.

C. Playfairii has the soapy taste characteristic of Hoti resin.

C. erythraea has a bitter taste and slightly aromatic flavour like that of the Kafil wood of the Cairo bizzars.

C. Kataf. Mr. Holmes believes that this plant yields bissa bol, having in 1897 tasted a drop exuding from a living twig in Kew gardens, but which the Kew people refer to *C. erythraea* var. *glabrescens*.

Mr. Holmes concluded this section of his paper by exhibiting lantern pictures of the various plants, which served to emphasise his conclusion. He next spoke of

THE TREES YIELDING GUM ARABIC.

This was practically a comment upon herbarium specimens presented by Schweinfurth. He pointed out that the different species are recognised by the pods, which are much more distinctive than the flowers. The gist of his remarks is as follows:—

The fine white Kordofan gum is yielded by *Acacia Senegal*, which grows in the region between and including Nubia and Senegal. Other kinds of gum are obtained from *A. Seyal* and *A. fistula*, and when *A. Seyal* var. *multituga* grows south of 10° N. lat. it does not exude gum. It would be a great advantage if a pharmacognocist would join some of the exploring expeditions into these regions so as to settle once for all the origin of disputed drugs.

THE PRESIDENT agreed with the last remark, and Prof. GREENISH said that he intended to examine histologically the barks of Mr. Holmes's myrrh specimens and bits of bark which adhere to myrrh, by this means hoping to establish the identity.

Replying to the President, Mr. HOLMES explained that the genus *Balsamodendron* is now merged into the *Commiphora*, which is the name first applied to the genus.

THE PRESIDENT then intimated that the next meeting would be held on the second Tuesday of February, 1897.

Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland.

THE monthly meeting of the Council was held on December 2, Mr. W. F. Wells, jun. (President) in the chair. The other members of Council present were Messrs. Beggs (Hon. Treasurer), Conyngham, Bernard, J. Montgomery (Belfast), Murray, J.P. (Clones), Grindley, and Hayes.

SALE OF ETHER BY AN UNQUALIFIED PERSON.

The District Inspector, R.I.C., at Magherafelt, reported that Catherine Doherty, shopkeeper of Matuoy, had been prosecuted and fined 2*l.* 10*s.* for selling ether, she not being qualified to do so.

THE PRESIDENT: It was a prosecution under section 15 of our Amendment Act, and the police prosecuted without communicating with us. It is satisfactory to find that, although the Magistrates might have only inflicted a fine of 1*s.* they imposed one of 2*l.* 10*s.*

Mr. BERNARD suggested that a circular, reporting this successful prosecution, might be sent to inspectors of constabulary in the ether-selling districts, and Mr. CONYNGHAM stated that in the north of Ireland, round Omagh, hundreds of gallons of ether are sold in the year.

"TRUTH" ON THE IRISH AND BRITISH EXAMINATIONS.

Mr. FERRALL read the following reply to an official letter sent by him to the Registrar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain:—

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain,
17 Bloomsbury Square, London, W.C.,
November 6, 1895.

A. T. FERRALL, Esq.

DEAR SIR.—I am in receipt of yours of yesterday's date, and of a newspaper in which a paragraph is marked. In reply to your inquiry the statement in the paragraph is, as far as I am aware, incorrect.

Yours truly,

RICHARD BREMIDGE.

The PRESIDENT then related the history which had led up to this correspondence. In THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST of November 7 last was quoted a paragraph which had appeared in *Truth* of that week in respect to a person with an Irish qualification who had been fined for practising in England. The editor of *Truth* stated that having sent to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, he had been informed by them that, in their opinion, the Irish examination is an insufficient test of a druggist's qualifications for dispensing work, and that they consequently do not recognise licentiates of the Irish Pharmaceutical Society. Comments on this paragraph appeared in the Dublin papers, and in the *Evening Telegraph* of November 5 appeared an interview with Mr. Wells on the subject, which the President now stated was substantially accurate. Mr. Wells told the *Telegraph* interviewer that, as far as recognising qualification went, there was no reciprocity between Ireland and Great Britain. The Irish Pharmacy Act of 1875 was entirely distinct from the English Act, and applied only to Ireland. As a matter of fact, in Ireland two English licentiates had been prosecuted by the Irish Society, and another had been threatened. As to the examinations, Mr. Wells (as reported by the interviewer) was of opinion that the statement would not have been made by the Registrar of the English Society; as a matter of fact, the examination of the Irish Pharmaceutical Society for a chemist was a superior examination to the chemists' and druggists' in England. In England they had two examinations, one of which was a higher standard than the other, but either qualifies a man to open a shop and dispense medicine. The Irish examination was an intermediate one between those, and Mr. Wells had it on the authority of gentlemen who passed both that the Irish examination was the stiffer one. From time to time the examination had been made even stiffer, and it was now a thorough test of what was required, and any man having the Irish qualification was competent to dispense medicine for anybody.

The President said he thought the reply received from Mr. Bremidge was anything but strong. He thought he would have denied that the statement had been made by anybody in the English Society's house. He was then inclined to drop the matter; but the *Pharmaceutical Journal* woke up, after the lapse of a month, with an article on the subject, in which it said if the statement alleged by *Truth* to have been made in the Pharmaceutical Society's house had actually been made, "it would constitute a grave breach of courtesy, whatever the position of the culprit; but inquiry on the spot fails to throw any light on the matter, and it can only be assumed that Mr. Labouchere's young man invented the reply or went elsewhere for it."

MR. BERNARD: Mr. Bremidge vouches for himself, but he does not vouch for what may have been said in his office. I am inclined to think that *Truth* is correct as to the source of the information. It is characteristic of the way in which we have been treated by the English Society.

The PRESIDENT said the *Pharmaceutical Journal* had further commented on his statement, which they were quite hurt at. He had written a letter to that journal, which he hoped they would publish.

MR. BERNARD: Mr. Bremidge's letter is not an answer. We want an official denial of it.

MR. CONYNGHAM: You will get nothing from them except what you can squeeze out of them.

MR. BERNARD: But it has not been shown that the English Society denies the statement that *Truth* made. *Truth's* assertion stands at the present moment.

The PRESIDENT: No; we have contradicted it here.

MR. CONYNGHAM: Write to *Truth*, and ask them for their authority.

The PRESIDENT: It is not worth bothering any more about. You never can beat an editor. But I think it was the duty of the President of the Pharmaceutical Society of

England, when a statement of that sort was made, to have had it investigated.

MR. HAYES: It might not be out of place to write, saying that you regretted Mr. Bremidge had only spoken for himself, and not for the other officials.

The PRESIDENT then read from the article in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, which stated that "if it is considered desirable for an official body to take any notice of absurd and inaccurate statements made in irresponsible news-sheets, it were surely best to communicate first with the parties implicated." The editor was "extremely loth to believe" that he (Mr. Wells) went so far out of his way, in referring to *Truth's* statement, as to draw unfavourable comparisons between the British and Irish examinations, though this is what is reported. "It might not be difficult to put a very different aspect on this question, but really such comparisons are childish in the extreme, and certainly unworthy the attention of anyone occupying a prominent position in an important official body."

MR. BERNARD: Their statement is only a countercharge drawing a red herring over the trail. Let us insist on an answer to our original communication.

MR. BERNARD moved a resolution to the effect that the Council considered Mr. Bremidge's letter to be only a personal denial, and that they thought they should receive from the English Society an official denial that the erroneous information was supplied by them.

The motion was agreed to.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE POISONS SCHEDULE.

A letter from Dr. Nugent, Registrar of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, informed the Council that the amendments which they had suggested to be made in the Schedule to the Sale of Poisons (Ireland) Act were under the consideration of the College.

The PRESIDENT said he had since received a communication from the President of the College of Physicians, asking the Vice President and himself to wait on the committee of the College in reference to the amendments. He asked Mr. Charles Evans and Mr. Hayes to accompany them. Mr. Evans was not able to go, but Mr. Hayes joined them. They were received with every courtesy. The committee suggested the omission of four of the recommended items, intimating that they approved of the rest and would recommend them. When the subject of cocaine was mentioned he drew attention to the resolution passed at the last meeting of the Council. They said they would leave that for the College to deal with. He told them that the Council were not unanimous, and that personally he did not approve of the resolution, but that he was bound to place before them the view of the majority of the Council.

MR. BERNARD: Is there any official record of the voting here on the subject?

The PRESIDENT: No. No one but myself said "No."

THREE MEMBERS RESIGN.

Letters were received from Messrs. G. McGuire, J. T. Turner, and W. White, resigning membership of the Society.

MR. BEGGS said he was very sorry to hear of these resignations, especially that of Mr. Turner. He (Mr. Beggs) had been active in getting the Council to grant the use of its rooms to the Pharmaceutical Chemists' Assistants' Association. Mr. Turner and another of the gentlemen who had sent in resignations were members of that Association; and their action looked as if now that they had got all they wanted from the Pharmaceutical Society they were withdrawing their support from it.

The PRESIDENT: You are wrong as to Mr. Turner, for he resigned in January last; and his letter, now read, says he hopes to rejoin us.

MR. BEGGS said that members of the Assistants' Association were speaking harshly of the Society. They did not support them although they could take their rooms.

The PRESIDENT remarked that there was a great deal in what Mr. Beggs had said.

NEW MEMBERS.

Mr. J. W. Agnew, Belfast, and Mr. Henry O'Connor Dublin, were elected members, and Mr. J. G. W. Boggs, of Portrush, was nominated for membership.

The Winter Session.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY.

At last week's meeting of the Chemical Society the following gentlemen connected with pharmacy were elected Fellows:—Mr. William Duncan, F.R.C., Royal Dispensary, Edinburgh; Mr. C. A. Hill, Ph.C., A.I.C. (A. S. Hill & Son); Mr. R. D. Littlefield, Chemistry Demonstrator in the School of Pharmacy; Mr. A. H. Mitchell Muter, A.I.C., South London College of Pharmacy; Dr. Frederick B. Power, director of the Wellcome Research Laboratories; and Mr. W. H. Walker, chemist and druggist, Willenhall, Staffs. Seven papers were read at the meeting, and all of them dealt with special subjects in organic chemistry, none of them being suitable for comment in this journal. An idea of the entertainment provided may be gained from the fact that we caught one or two people sleeping; but at another time, when Mr. A. G. Green was trying to get an experiment to go which would not, conversation was quite general throughout the room. The meeting may prove memorable for a second declaration by Professor ARMSTRONG that authors should not be allowed more than fifteen minutes per paper, to which he added that each author should chalk the time he begins on the blackboard, and then the time he finishes. He set the example by putting down 9.37 and 9.46, in which time he made two communications. His proposal amused the audience, and his remark that under the present regime no notice is taken in the *Proceedings* of anything that is said, was felt to be *à propos* as it was severe upon the Honorary Secretaries.

SOCIETY OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRY.

LONDON SECTION.

THE meeting on Monday evening was not so well attended as usual, for, as Dr. Messel (chairman) explained, Mr. Crookes was speaking about diamonds at the Imperial Institute, and diamonds are always more attractive than alkali, which was the first subject on the programme.

Mr. A. E. FLETCHER, ex-chief alkali inspector, was the author of the paper on

THE HISTORY OF ALKALI-MANUFACTURE.

The line of his remarks was along patent literature. Beginning with 1779, when an English patent was taken out for making potashes, in which sal polyebriat, sal enixum, and other similar salts were used, with charcoal and roasting, he showed in this patent the first glimmerings of the Leblanc process. In 1781 the manufacture of soda was attempted by fusion of common salt and minium or litharge, and in the year following one Turner took out a patent for making soda by decomposing salt with vitriol, and burning the sulphate of soda with coal. This was getting a step nearer to realisation, and many a man stuck at this point until in 1787 Nicholas Leblanc secured the French Academy prize offered in 1775 for a workable soda process. He added lime to the coal, which Turner tried, and so secured success. The process was not patented in this country. It was taken up here tentatively, first at St. Helen's, then at Glasgow, next on the Tyne, and finally at Widnes, which has latterly become the biggest centre. With the removal of the salt-tax in 1823 the industry received a great impetus. Mr. Fletcher next dealt with the patents for the production of chlorine, and passed on to speak of the ammonia-process, which was first worked in 1838 at Whitechapel, London, under Dyer & Hemming's patent, which consisted of adding ammonium carbonate to a solution of common salt. The process was too costly, and failed. John Thoms, of Camlachie, tried it too, making a hundredweight of sodium bicarbonate by it; and he showed the late Dr. Angus Smith the practicability of the process, but neither he nor a dozen or more others succeeded in overcoming the mechanical difficulties which Ernest Solvay finally settled in 1872 with his patent towers, in which a downflowing stream of ammoniated brine meets a stream of carbon dioxide going up. Thus, more than thirty years after the first patent, success was obtained; and the moral is, said Mr. Fletcher, that a theoretically correct process

should never be abandoned until the mechanical hindrances are removed. That moral has paid in the case of the ammonia process, as the following figures show. They give the amount of salt decomposed in Great Britain and Ireland for the manufacture of alkali:—

Year	Leblanc Process	Ammonia Process	Total
	Tons	Tons	Tons
1877	562,570	9,072	562,582
1878	535,154	16,730	551,384
1879	575,447	22,669	593,116
1880	648,587	27,416	676,003
1881	620,034	29,753	649,847
1882	598,833	56,914	655,747
1883	632,921	77,016	679,936
1884	578,874	89,769	668,633
1885	598,096	115,032	713,128
1886	584,323	137,220	721,543
1887	577,381	158,626	736,017
1888	590,312	212,181	802,493
1889	584,203	219,279	803,493
1890	632,769	252,260	885,029
1891	567,803	278,578	846,391
1892	519,593	364,897	824,490
1893	467,562	349,609	817,171
1894	434,298	361,613	795,901
1895	408,175	422,614	836,787

The *Chemiker Zeitung* has recently published the following figures, in tons, as the world's annual production of alkali, but Mr. Fletcher pointed out that they are not correct. The United States produces more alkali than 100,000 tons a year, and her production is increasing rapidly. The figures in the first table also show that in Great Britain more ammonia soda than Leblanc soda is now produced:—

	Ammonia Soda	Leblanc Soda	Total	Proportion of Ammonia to Leblanc
	Tons	Tons	Tons	
Great Britain ..	181,000	340,000	521,000	34
Germany ..	210,000	40,000	250,000	84
France ..	150,000	20,000	170,000	88
Belgium ..	30,000	6,000	36,000	93
Austria ..	75,000	20,000	95,000	78
Russia ..	50,000	10,000	60,000	83
North America ..	80,000	20,000	100,000	80

In another table Mr. Fletcher showed that up to 1884 Germany imported alkali, but since then she has exported it and imported none. The correctness of this statement was disputed, and the suggestion thrown out that the figures referred to balances. At all events, Germany's highest import, 27,500 tons, was reached in 1876, and the highest export, 41,479 tons, in 1892.

In the next part of his paper, Mr. Fletcher spoke of the manufacture of sulphuric acid, and the impetus which the use of pyrites received in the forties by the Neapolitan Government granting a sulphur monopoly whereby the price was raised from 5*l.* to 14*l.* a ton. Next he spoke of the manufacture of chlorine by the interaction of salt, nitre and vitriol, in regard to which there are patents extending back 50 years; yet the realisation of the process is still in the future. In his final sentences, Mr. Fletcher spoke amusingly of the way farmers tried to prove that the gases from certain chimneys did all the damage to their crops. They used to fly kites with a sponge dipped in litmus tied to the tail, so that the acid fumes of the chimneys would turn the litmus red; and this sport did not end until the alkali Act was passed in 1863. Dr. Angus Smith was the inspector appointed under the Act, and Mr. Fletcher was one of his assistants.

Mr. FORBES CARPENTER, who is Mr. Fletcher's successor, led off the discussion by saying that he remembered sal enixum very well; the workmen called it "Sally" or "Sally Nixon." There was another thing, a crude sulphide of soda which boiled over the pots, and which, as *sulphur vivum*, was sold to hairdressers as a depilatory.

Mr. GUTTMANN also spoke, calling attention to the fact that none of the companies formed to work the salt, nitre, and vitriol-chlorine process have come to grief. In that process all the nitric acid ultimately gets into the vitriol, and

upon its recovery the life or death of the companies depends. Why have the companies not succeeded?

Mr. FLETCHER'S speech in reply was, on the whole, more interesting than the paper, for it was reminiscent of Gossage, Gamble, Weidon, Danlop, Angus Smith, and many others who have helped to make the alkali industry of this country.

A paper on the

SPONTANEOUS OXIDATION OF ALUMINIUM,

by Messrs N. F. HUNT and L. J. STEELE was then read. When aluminium is placed in dirty mercury, or rubbed with mercuric chloride solution, an efflorescence of aluminium hydroxide quickly forms upon the surface. The authors themselves showed by quotations from books and journals that this is not a new observation, and Mr. OTTO HEHNER said that something like it was published in the *Chemical News* in 1878—putting aluminium in solution of mercuric chloride with a bit of iron, when an aluminium tree grew up. It was quite a popular experiment. Mr. GUTTMANN also mentioned that though nitric acid and sulphuric acid separately attack aluminium, a mixture of the two does not. Mr. TURVETT described curious experiments, and the CHAIRMAN said the interest of the paper was that aluminium under certain conditions is an exceedingly corrodible metal.

NOTTINGHAM SECTION.

The first meeting of the present session of this Section was held on November 25, at University College, Nottingham. The discussion left over from last session on Mr. J. M. C. Paton's paper on

THE AMOUNT OF AIR CONTAINED IN WATER

was resumed. In the course of it Dr. CLOWES mentioned that he had found the dissolved oxygen in water to be an absolute test of its purity in regard to the absence of sewage-matter. Water from ordinary sources wholly free from dissolved oxygen would certainly be contaminated with sewage. The CHAIRMAN (Mr. F. J. R. Carulla) then spoke upon

THE POSITION OF SULPHATE OF AMMONIA.

He referred to the fact that nitrate of soda contains 16.47 per cent. of nitrogen, whilst sulphate contains 21.21 per cent. Until recently some relation has been maintained between these values in reckoning the sale-price, but now all this is reversed and sulphate is cheaper than nitrate ton for ton. He suggested combined action by the manufacturers, and that much might be effected both by advertising and distributing literature to educate the farmer. It has been calculated that England might use with advantage sixty-six times the quantity of nitrogenous manure actually consumed. After a lengthy review of the situation Mr. Carulla summed up in the following words:—"From what has been said it may be seen that whilst there is yet a large virgin field for the employment of sulphate of ammonia in agriculture, many uses for ammonia are opening out, whilst the competition of nitrate of soda is only felt by sulphate. We have also seen that the increase in the production of ammonia is likely to suffer a check in the gas-industry, but, on the other hand, blast-furnaces and coke-ovens, as well as shale-works, will probably pour it into the market in increasing quantities. The latter, however, are more subject to trade fluctuations than are the gasworks, so that we cannot help being impressed by the conviction that great variations will be seen in the sulphate-of-ammonia market in the future as in the past, that the present depression is only temporary, and that we can hopefully look forward to better times. Is it too much to ask through this Society, founded as it was to give each other mutual help, that all sulphate-makers should join in an effort to try and remove the disgrace of sending abroad a product that is so sadly needed at home, but neglected because not understood by those who should best appreciate its value?"

It was agreed to have a discussion on the subject later in the session.

MANCHESTER SECTION.

At the meeting held in the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on December 4, Dr. Edward Schunck, President, in the chair,

Dr. STEVENSON MACADAM, of Edinburgh, read a communication on

"SAFE AND UNSAFE MINERAL OILS

for Domestic Lighting and Heating, with Practical Suggestions for the Treatment of Unsafe Oils, and Observations on Domestic Lamps and Stoves." Generally he condemned the low flash-point now legally recognised, and insisted upon 100° F. being fixed as the minimum. He showed from published papers of his own, dating back to 1870, that his opinion is worth listening to. He submitted that the legislature should first specify that the safety limit of 100° F. should be obtained by reducing the standard of the oil used to that, and not by raising the oil to the safety standard. There are three classes of these oils, the shale, the American and the Russian. Dr. Macadam proceeded to give the results of experiments with these oils, to prove that the withdrawal of only 10 per cent. of the lighter naphtha or spirit would render them perfectly safe. Such a withdrawal could be carried out during the distillation at little or no expense, as the naphtha or spirit could be utilised for other industrial purposes. This withdrawal of 10 per cent. did not reduce the light-giving quality of the oil. He proceeded to give certain statistics which he had compiled to show the temperature attained by oil while still burning in different classes of lamps. During an evening the oil in many founts gets very hot, and he showed that the use of oil having a less flashing-point than 100° F. was at all times near the exploding-point. He also submitted some suggestions for the construction of lamps.

GLASGOW AND WEST OF SCOTLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of this Association held on December 3—Mr. W. L. Currie presiding—there was an unusually large attendance.

THE PRESCRIBING OF PROPRIETARY MEDICINES.

Mr. RUSSELL, the Secretary, reported that on November 28 he wrote to Mr. Bremridge, Secretary of the Pharmaceutical Society, calling attention to the memorial which had been submitted to the Council on March 4, by the Glasgow Association, regarding the prescribing of proprietary medicines by medical men. The memorial was referred to the General Purposes Committee, and the Secretary was now asked what the Council had decided in regard to the matter. Mr. Bremridge had replied to the effect that the memorial was still under consideration. He could hold out no strong hope of an immediate decision thereon. The question, he added, "bristles with difficulties, and it is not quite clear what steps can be taken by this Society to check the practice complained of."

THE PROPRIETARY ARTICLES TRADE ASSOCIATION.

Mr. CURRIE intimated that the special business for the evening was a discussion on the question, "Is the Proprietary Articles Trade Association worthy of the support of retail chemists?"—a subject of very great importance.

Mr. JAMES MOIR led off the debate with a paper in support of the Association. He maintained that from the energetic way in which the promoters had gone about their work, the Association had achieved undoubted success and bade fair to become an accomplished fact. It only wanted the mass of retailers to combine and support it to make it a thorough success. If retailers rallied round it with anything like enthusiasm, manufacturers who were now standing aloof would support it. After putting forward arguments in defence of the principle on which the Association was founded, and discussing the question of profit, Mr. Moir asked what attitude would the stores adopt in this matter? They had seen the attitude taken by Messrs. Boot and Day—the consternation they were in, and how they regarded the work this Association was doing, and the consequences they feared. The chemists would have to be prepared to count the cost, as the stores would probably adopt every move they could to run them down to the public. But as long as they only charged a fair profit, which they had a right to demand, they could look calmly on, perfectly satisfied that their position was a right one. What did the manufacturers expect in return? Naturally there was the *quid pro quo*. In

return for supporting the chemists, the manufacturers expected the chemists to support them, and sell their goods when asked for, and not palm off substitutes. He for one had no hesitation in accepting those terms. If chemists combined to support this movement, a large class of manufacturers who were still outside would come into it. A number of local associations had already given this movement their hearty support, and he hoped it would be strengthened by the adhesion of the Glasgow Association.

Mr. J. ANDERSON RUSSELL followed with a paper on the other side. It was argued that by supporting this Association they (the retail chemists) would receive a much greater profit upon proprietary articles. That was the whole case in its favour so far as the retail chemists were concerned. Where commodities were being sold by reason of excessive competition at a profit regarded as insufficient for the labour of distribution, and where they desired to continue selling them, they gladly availed themselves of any honourable arrangement which would insure them an adequate profit. When Mr. Elliman came to them with his proposal they raised no objection; so with the arrangements of Messrs. Blondeau et Cie; Barroughs, Wellcome & Co., and others. No condition was imposed upon them beyond the undertaking not to sell their goods under the prices stipulated, and they had the assurance that their competitors could act in no other way. Nor was it at all likely that were all makers of proprietaries to come to them singly or unitedly they would seek to evade such a condition or would raise any objection to it. But here they were asked to join hands with the makers of proprietaries in an association to promote what it had pleased some to call their "common interests." Common interests! An increased sale in proprietaries put up by others meant to retailers a diminished sale in their own goods. He was not so unkind as to say that when more proprietaries were sold there was in consequence a corresponding increase in the number of people out of health. Many sensible persons, however, did not scruple to say so, and, in truth, unless that was to be admitted, he did not see where common interests, even financial ones, came in between those proprietors and retail chemists. Retail chemists regarded the proprietors' interests as directly opposed to theirs. To talk of substitution on the part of the chemist was downright impudence, and it was amazing to find chemists as a body quietly allowing themselves to be traduced in that fashion. Not all, perhaps, but the great bulk of proprietaries, particularly those classed as medicines, and with which chemists were especially at war, were declared in advertisements to be the "best on earth," and the public were warned not to purchase anything else of a like nature. Were chemists supposed to know anything about their business? Were they able to make up medicinal preparations? If so, were they not to enlighten their customers—many of whom were personal friends—in regard to misrepresentations made in advertisements, or to push the sale of their own goods, which they honestly believed to be better than those of others? In other words, they were asked to believe that it was not substitution for owners of proprietaries to advertise their goods and substitute them for those of the chemist, but that it was substitution on the part of the chemists when they advertised their own goods and declared them to be better than proprietaries. An emulsion of cod-liver oil, a pamphlet regarding which was put in his hand not long ago, was advertised to contain about 80 per cent. of cod-liver oil; and it was also stated in the pamphlet that chemists could not make up an emulsion containing a larger percentage of cod liver oil than 30 per cent. They were asked not to attempt to substitute a better preparation to their customers and friends, because the other was a proprietary. Chemists should sell their own preparations as much as they possibly could. To sell one thing representing it to be another was a proceeding in regard to which resort could be made to law, and the person who did it would be punished. That was one kind of substitution, and they had no sympathy with it, but what many meant by the term substitution was in many cases most laudable. If the Association had confined itself to such substances as cocoa or infants' food, they would not have the same objections to it, but they were asked to support an association which did not exclude things which they felt a defilement in having to deal with. At present the sale of proprietaries, particularly stamped medicines, was a neces-

sary evil. Chemists did not want them. They were against their interests. If it was desirable to have an increased profit on the sale of them, at least it was not necessary to join hands with proprietors more than consenting to the general agreement made regarding prices, and to do so did not mean that they must become members of their Association. Chemists must keep themselves free to war against proprietors as they found it necessary.

Mr. ROBB objected to the P.A.T.A. on the broad ground that it was an interference in their own business with the principles of free trade. It was a mistake to dictate to a man how he should sell the thing that he bought. His opinion was that chemists ought on all occasions to sell the thing they knew about rather than a thing they did not know about. Moreover, he did not think the prices proprietors were giving chemists provided they supported them were such as recouped them for selling their goods.

Mr. LAING believed manufacturers were coming round to the retail chemists again. They had found that the stores were not their great friends. If so, they must put their articles in their hands in a proper way. He considered that manufacturers had not recognised wholesale houses as they should do. As a matter of principle, the wholesale man deserved more consideration in buying than the retail man did.

Mr. BOYD thought it would be a most impolitic move on the part of retail chemists to support the Association. He did not believe it would improve their position. They had got so accustomed to cutting that they had come to like it. Some of the manufacturers who had made themselves prominent in this movement had suffered greatly through substitution, and that was no doubt why they were now coming round to the chemists. Well, it was everyone for himself. They ought, as educated chemists, to be able to make all the remedies that the public required. And they should make it their business to educate the public to see that they were the right men to make them. A great many proprietors of universal cures were men who had received no education. But they advertised, and they got the public ear, and they got the great bulk of the profits. Pharmacy should be for the pharmacists. Proprietors boasted about the great sums they spent in advertising, but the chemist could save all that and give it to the public in better value. Were they to guarantee that a certain box of ointment made of beeswax and resin would cure cancer? Were they as educated chemists to become parties to that sort of thing? The chemists were not going to be the manufacturers' servants in their business.

Mr. ROBERTSON expressed disapproval of the Association on the general ground that the class of trade which it dealt with was entirely opposed to the interests of the retail chemists. Regarding Mr. Laing's remark, he doubted if wholesale houses got more consideration from the proprietors of patent medicines. The wholesale people, at least in Scotland, had taken measures themselves to secure a certain profit on those goods. In Edinburgh and Glasgow there was a combination of wholesale houses for that purpose.

Mr. DAVID WATSON also opposed the Association, but

Mr. ROBINSON supported Mr. Mori's views. To attempt to crush the sale of patent medicines would, in his view, be as useless as to try to stem the roll of the waves. It simply revolved itself into a question of capital *versus* private endeavour. The makers of proprietary articles had been in advance of the average private chemist in recognising the potency of printers' ink. And if a chemist attempted to substitute for a preparation that he was asked for one of his own, when not called to express an opinion *pro* and *con*, undoubtedly that was culpable substitution. A man had a perfect right to receive value *quid pro quo*; he had the right just as much as the private chemist had to expect a return, through whatever channel it might revert to him, for the money he spent in printer's ink. If the stores were not the proprietary makers' friends, who were? Decidedly not the chemists. Pharmacists simply acted as their tools by force of circumstances. If the chemists substituted, the manufacturers would go somewhere else with their goods. Patent-medicine makers were qualified pharmacists in many cases, and chemists should see that it was to their interest to combine with them. He believed it was the best arrangement that had been proposed, and was the only feasible scheme for bettering the present state of things.

Mr. CURRIE, in closing the debate, remarked that he was strongly impressed with the idea that the manufacturers of proprietary articles had not the interests of the retail chemists very much at heart. It seemed to him that while they were very anxious to secure to the chemists a minimum price with a fair profit, they were also anxious to secure to themselves a maximum addition to the profit which they had. The wholesale prices of these articles had increased. He did not think that was giving the retailers very much of an advantage as regards the retail profit. He was convinced that the proprietors joining this Association had found the sales and the demand for their articles going down in such a degree that they were compelled to do something to favour those who had been the means of creating the demand for their goods. He had been asked, as President of the Federation of Associations, to allow this question to be debated by every association throughout the country, and he meant to let that be done at the earliest possible opportunity. His own opinion he would sink entirely; but there, in his own Association, he would give it, and it was that this Proprietary Articles Trade Protection Association would not live many years. It was simply a move on the part of manufacturers and wholesale dealers to cause a little spurt in their business; they wanted to increase their own profits while they would give the retailers nothing.

Mr. MOIR and Mr. RUSSELL afterwards replied.

As the discussion was prolonged till 11.20, a number of the members left the meeting before the vote was taken. The vote resulted for Mr. Moir's proposal to support the Association, 5; for Mr. Russell's negative motion, 13; and 4 declined to vote.

It was therefore decided not to support the Association.

MIDLAND PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

A MEETING of the Midland Pharmaceutical Association was held on December 8 at the Mason College, Birmingham, when a lecture on "Vegetable Histology" (part 2) was delivered by Mr. F. H. ALCOCK, with lantern-illustrations under the direction of Mr. J. Davis. Mr. C. F. Jarvis presided. The lecture was a continuation of one delivered last session, and included a description and representation of the leading types of members of the division *Cryptogamia*. The views included the frond and several portions of selaginella, a series of common club moss, the bracken fern (showing scalariform vessels), the horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*), including its reproductive organs and the functions of the spor-elators, moss (*Polytrichum commune*), common bladderwrack, *Cladocarpus purpurea*, *Cetraria islandica*, *Rocella*, and *Chondrus crispus*.

LIVERPOOL PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

AT the meeting held on December 3 the President, Mr. J. JONES, showed two curious prescriptions. In one lot, plumbi was ordered to be diluted with water. Evidently the prescriber had intended liq. plumbi acetat. The other was a specimen of modern prescribing. It ordered pot. citrat. $\bar{\text{z}}\text{iv}$, acid. citric. $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ij}$, lithii brom. $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ij}$, sodii brom. $\bar{\text{z}}\text{iv}$, sodii sulphat. $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ss}$, succ. tarax. $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ij}$, succ. scoparii $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ij}$, caff. cit $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ij}$, inf. ergotæ conc. $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ij}$, inf. jaborandi ad $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ij}$. $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ss}$. ter die horâ ante cib. ex cyath. aq.

Mr. WARDLEWORTH exhibited a specimen of what had been offered as wild colocynth—small gourds which showed hardly any pulpy tissue, and in which the seeds were so predominant that some of the specimens looked more like shortened cobs of Indian corn. The source had not been determined, but was believed to be Syria. He also showed a specimen of "raki," a spirit prepared in Smyrna from the commoner sorts of mastic, of which it had a most pronounced taste and flavour.

Mr. W. A. COCKSHOTT then read a paper on "John Dalton and the Atomic Theory," in which he gave an outline of the scientist's life and labour.

BRIGHTON JUNIOR ASSOCIATION OF PHARMACY.

AT the social evening held on December 2 Mr. A. T. Jeeves, the President, was in the chair. Mr. W. W. Savage, who had

promised to preside, was prevented on account of the death of his mother. A vote of condolence with him was passed. The thirty-five Benevolent Fund votes, to which the Association were entitled, were unanimously accorded to Mrs. Eliza Sarah Linford.

MANCHESTER PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.

ON Wednesday evening Mr. J. RYMER YOUNG delivered an illustrated lecture, entitled "From Alchemy to Chemistry," before this Society. Mr. G. S. Woolley, the President, occupied the chair, and there was a fair attendance. After an interesting account of the work of the alchemists, Mr. Young briefly sketched the principal features of the work of Mayow, Priestley, and Dalton, and then brought his narrative to modern chemistry. He was cordially thanked for his lecture.

ABERDEEN JUNIOR CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.

ON Friday evening last week Dr. BEVERIDGE delivered a lecture on "Respiration," treating the subject in a most interesting and instructive manner, illustrating it by diagrams. The loud applause which the doctor received on leaving showed how the large audience had appreciated his lecture.

The Association's social evening has been changed from December 18 to December 23. The evening will take the form of a concert, to be held in New Trades Hall. Tickets, 9d. each, may be obtained from the Secretary. An excellent programme is in preparation, and a few of the songs will be illustrated with lantern-slides, which is rather a novel feature.

EDINBURGH CHEMISTS', ASSISTANTS', AND APPRENTICES' ASSOCIATION.

AT the meeting of this Association held on December 4, Mr. C. F. HENRY read a thoughtful paper on

UNIFORMITY IN PHARMACY.

Its purpose was to advocate the desirability of pharmacists from Land's End to John o' Groats giving the same thing when a specific article is called for; but the utility of his remarks for general guidance was discounted at the outset by the fact that local opinion only had been taken on the questions discussed. Substantially the paper consisted of replies to the following questions, fifteen retail chemists in Edinburgh and Leith having given answers:—

What should be given when liquor tætaxaci is called for?—Ten said succus, five said liquid extract.

What is pil. opii?—Five said pil. saponis co., six said 1 gr. of opium in a pill, one would give pulv. opii gr. $\frac{3}{4}$ in a 1-gr. pill, and Mr. Henry himself said 1 gr. of the powder in a pill.

What is lin. saponis co.?—Seven said lin. opii, and eight lin. saponis.

What is asafœtida pill?—Ten said pil. galbani co., four said pil. aloes et asafœtidæ, and one hedged.

What is chloric ether?—Twelve said sp. chloroformi, B.P., and four gave it as D., F. & Co.'s preparation.

What is tr. iodi?—Ten replied to this that they give tr. iodi, B.P., while five give the Edinburgh Pharmacopœia tincture, which is stronger.

What kind of soft paraffin should be used in making boric ointment?—The white said 13; the yellow said two.

What should be supplied for empl. belladonnæ?—Our own make of B.P. said 12; a porous one said two; and the B.P. (1867) article replied the fifteenth.

How should prescription dosages of $\bar{\text{z}}\text{j}$, $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ij}$, and $\bar{\text{z}}\text{ss}$ be rendered?—This Mr. Henry replied to himself. "A small teaspoonful," &c., he said, because ordinary spoons hold more than $\bar{\text{z}}\text{j}$, &c.

What is ung. zinci carb.?—Calamine ointment, eight K.O.P.'s replied; but five said an ointment of the white carbonate.

Hamilton's pills, what are they? Also pil. ferri carb.? Golden ointment? Lead-and-opium lotion? And medicated wool? These were questions upon which Mr. Henry expressed his own opinion, and the most curious answer was that sublimated wool should be given for medicated wool.

A good discussion followed, and from it we select views

expressed by speakers differing from or opposing any of the foregoing dicta.

Mr. STICLAIR said Mr. Henry had reversed the proportions for Hamilton's pills. It should be 2 parts extract of colocynth and 1 part extract of henbane.

Mr. LUNAN said practice varied in different districts. In England aq. mentha was aq. menth. virid., in Edinburgh it was aq. menth. pip. In the case of belladonna plaster, he believed the doctor wanted a porous rubber plaster, and medicated wool was just absorbent cotton.

Mr. REID said lin. saponis is lin. saponis co. He had seen it called lin. saponis co. in, he thought, Brande's "Pharmacy."

Mr. MACDOUGALL said there was considerable difference in the case of sweet oil. Sometimes olive oil was supplied and sometimes rape oil. He had found a ready way to make lead-and-opium lotion was to use 1 oz. of laudanum and 5 oz. of liq. plumbi subacet. dil.

Mr. C. A. MACPHERSON thought when pil. opii gr. j. was ordered they should give 1 gr. of B.P. opium. Colloqually, aloes and asafetida pills were known as asafetida pills. In regard to belladonna plaster the B.P. plaster should be supplied unless otherwise indicated. If porous plaster was wanted it would be so written, and if the old plaster was wanted it would be written emp. belladonna virid., or B.P., 1867.

Mr. CURRIE said when belladonna plaster was asked over the counter the public expected porous plaster, but when by prescription the B.P. plaster on leather should be dispensed.

Mr. BOA said that recently a prescriber wrote a prescription in his pharmacy for liq. taraxaci. He (Mr. Boa) said to him casually, "I suppose you mean the liquid extract of the 1885 B.P.?" The reply was "No, I mean the succus. I was not aware there was a liquid extract in the B.P." Medicated wool was absorbent wool, and formerly ordinary cotton-wool.

Mr. HILL said he had recently handed to him by a medical practitioner two samples of tincture of digitalis. One was perfectly inert, but the other produced the desired action as expected. This was want of uniformity of a very serious kind, and in this instance had nearly cost the life of a patient as well as the reputation of a medical practitioner.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. McBain), in moving a vote of thanks, said it was a good rule to use light magnesia for mixtures, and heavy magnesia for powders.

Mr. RUTHERFORD HILL then made a statement on "Botany in December," designed to show how much material is available to the observant student even in this wintry season, and how many interesting conditions of plant life, not generally met with in the usual plant-hunting months, can be studied with interest and profit. He also exhibited a quantity of chloral, and produced from it the solid crystalline hydrate by adding the molecular proportion of water.

ULSTER PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held in Belfast on December 1, Mr. W. Prott in the chair, Mr. D. W. ELLIOTT read an interesting paper on "Leeches." The Hon. Secretary announced that at the January meeting Mr. Templeton, F.C.S., would deliver a lecture on "Food and Drug Adulterations."

PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS' AND APOTHECARIES' ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION OF IRELAND.

A FULL meeting of this Association was held at the Pharmaceutical Society's House, Dublin, on December 4. Mr. W. McCarthy, L.P.S.I. (President), in the chair.

The PRESIDENT said the large attendance on such an inclement evening showed they were taking a lively interest in the Association. They had some important business to transact at that meeting. First was the question of the modification of the rules so as to admit outside friends to the general meetings of the Association, and allow them to take part in debates and to read papers. Another matter which would come before the meeting was the selection of a trade journal, to be distributed weekly amongst the subscribing members. This the committee felt, owing to the growth of the Association, they were in a position to supply and to deliver free to every member. If the committee had done nothing during their year of office but that one thing—and in his opinion it was only a fraction

of what they had done—he thought the members ought to feel proud of their representatives. He spoke of the committee of last year. The supplying of a trade journal was a step in the right direction. It would help to keep the members up to date on all matters relating to their business, and better enable them to discharge in the present the duties of assistants, as also in the future the more responsible ones of principal. The position of the (Irish) assistant nowadays was different to what it was a few years ago. When he commenced business the assistants were mostly sons of country medical men who had influences sufficient to get them into good houses in the City, where they found a home whilst pursuing the study of medicine. The majority of these students became qualified medical men after four or five years' study, and found positions as dispensary doctors, or else entered the Army Medical Service. He could mention several in very high positions who commenced as pharmacists. One, a fellow-assistant, was at present in as high a position as he could attain in the Army Medical Department. Now, unfortunately, since the abolition of the night lectures, it was next to impossible for an assistant to enter the higher ranks of the healing profession, but still there were a few able to do it, and these were deservedly proud to acknowledge that they commenced their professional career in the compounding-room, and a glance at their prescriptions showed a knowledge of pharmacy which could not be gained by a few months' teaching. Assistants ought to devote more time to acquiring a knowledge of business, as keen buying and good selling would ultimately do much for them. More is now, and still more would be, expected from the assistant in the future, owing to the fact that pharmacists have to compete not only with men in their own branch, but with the large limited liability companies controlled by keen business men.

After a few comments on the President's address, letters from the trade press were read, and, as the result of the voting, it was resolved to appoint THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST the official organ of the Association, and the Hon. Secretary was directed to arrange accordingly. It was resolved to send a circular to the members of the Pharmaceutical Council enclosing a copy of the newly-revised rules, and inviting these gentlemen to become honorary vice-presidents of the Association. It was also resolved to issue a circular, slightly different to the English and Irish wholesale drug and chemical houses, soliciting their support in making the Association a financial success. A syllabus of lectures, papers, &c., for the ensuing half year was drawn up. Amongst those who had already promised help in this direction were Dr. Smith, chemist in materia medica and botany to the Society; Dr. Walsh, Westmoreland Street; Councillor Robinson, Kingstown; Mr. Hegarty, Apothecaries' Hall; Mr. Smith, M.P.S.I., Grafton Street; Mr. Alexander Allen, Adelaide Hospital; and Mr. Johnston. A debate on the question, "Is the preliminary education of the pharmacist of a sufficiently high standard?" was arranged to be held on January 8.

IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.

ON Monday evening the second lecture on "The Diamond mines of Kimberley" was delivered by Mr. WILLIAM CROOKER, his remarks having special reference to the origin and nature of diamonds. By means of highly exhausted vacuum-tubes, through which high-tension electric currents were passed, the lecturer showed that the diamonds from each mine possess a special characteristic phosphorescence. Under such conditions most South African diamonds shine with a bluish light. Diamonds from other localities shine with different colours, such as bright blue, apricot, pale blue, red, yellowish green, orange, and pale green. The most phosphorescent diamonds are those which are fluorescent in the sun. An interesting test of real as against imitation diamonds was afforded by exposure to the Röntgen rays. The real diamond is extremely transparent to the Röntgen rays, but highly refracting glass, used in imitation diamonds, is almost opaque to them. Precious diamonds are not so uncommon as is generally supposed. Some weighing over an ounce (151.5 carats) are not infrequent at Kimberley, and, were it necessary, there would be no difficulty in getting together a hundred of them. The largest diamond from the Kimberley mines weighed nearly 4 cz.

The Proprietary Articles Trade Association.

A MEETING of the chemists of Bournemouth and district was held on Thursday evening, December 3, presided over by Mr. G. E. Bridge, the President of the Bournemouth and District Pharmaceutical Association. There were sixteen chemists present, and letters were read from eight others in the town and neighbourhood, regretting absence and referring favourably to the P.A.T.A.

The Chairman pointed out that the meeting was not called by the local Society. They had met to discuss a purely trade question. They welcomed among them Mr. Park, of Plymouth, one of the latest members of the Pharmaceutical Council, who would no doubt be able to give them some information. Mr. W. Jones moved the following resolution:—

That this meeting of chemists residing in Bournemouth and neighbourhood expresses its approval of the Proprietary Articles Trade Association, pledges itself to support it, and strongly urges owners of proprietary articles to add their goods to the protected list.

The Association, he said, had been called into existence to deal with the subject of cutting—extreme cutting. By extreme cutting he did not mean merely selling under 1s. 1½d., nor reducing prices in self-defence, but cutting done for a purpose, which he did not consider fair, of making certain things a draw or a bait, in order to draw custom to certain establishments. To sell patent medicines at cost price or under was unfair. It led the public to imagine that because one article was sold at a low figure everything else was in proportion. It also led to substitution, which was a most dishonest course. (Hear, hear.) Chemists who objected to this might meet it in three ways. They might ignore the patent-medicine trade altogether, or they might sell proprietary articles at the lowest figure at no profit, or they might continue to sell at 1s. 1½d., and if people did not like it, let them go elsewhere. In either case they were in a difficulty. If they continued to sell at the higher figure they would drive clients away. If they sold at the cost price they gave their time and trouble without profit, and if they gave it up altogether they lost customers. The ultimate result of cutting was substitution. No firms went in for cutting on philanthropic lines. If it were so why not sell Scott's pills, say, at 1s. 1½d. a box, and add a pot of jam for people to take them in? (Laughter.) All that the P.A.T.A. aimed at was to secure a reasonable profit. Makers would have to advertise far more heavily if chemists refused to help them by pushing their wares, and even now many of them began to see that it would be to their own benefit to support the P.A.T.A. Mr. Bland Botham seconded the resolution, and Mr. Park supported it. He believed some of the best-known proprietors were only waiting to know the wishes of the chemists. He held a letter from one well-known proprietor. It was not Scott's emulsion. (Laughter.) Perhaps the Plymouth chemists acted in that matter too much on the impulse of the moment, and, as THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST pointed out, not in a very diplomatic way; but he was sure anyone would be irritated when called out of bed—(a Chemist: "Or church," and laughter)—to sell a proprietary article on which transaction he was out of pocket. (Laughter.) It was excusable. The letter he had received said that the proprietors in question whom he would not name, were ready to meet the wishes of the chemists as to price as soon as they were made known to them, and that they would join the Association. At the same time, while they regretted the Plymouth chemists would have nothing to do with them, they did not think they would lose the sale of a single bottle, as they relied on the intelligent British public, who knew what they wanted and where to get it. (Laughter.) Mr. Park, continuing, said the time had come for retail trade to take a stand and ask manufacturers to choose who they were going to regard as their best friends—the chemists or the stores and cutting firms. He advocated getting the village and small town chemists to join. He had just come from London, and had seen the proprietor of three well-

known articles, who said he had thought the matter over seriously, and was prepared to join the P.A.T.A., and to put the three well-known patent articles on the protected list. (Applause.) He asked what price would suit the trade, and when told 20 per cent., said he would like to make it 25. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. Haynes deprecated coercion. What would tell against them was that the large stores sold more patent medicines than all the chemists put together in proportion. He was afraid few village chemists would have the courage to take a stand, and if they did it would not affect such things as Seigel's syrup that had a large sale.

Mr. Bilson considered that, in reducing the opportunities for getting certain things, they would be reducing the sale. (Hear, hear.) The attitude of some of the cutting firms and the umbrage they had taken at the formation of the P.A.T.A. encouraged him to think there was more in it than he had at first imagined. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. James Jones expressed himself in favour of the P.A.T.A. So also did Mr. J. K. Matterson, but the latter added he did not care a rap for the patent-medicine trade. He would not make his place a patent-medicine depot. If other firms cut he would not be undercut, but he would not lead the way.

Mr. Stewart Hardwick, Secretary to the Bournemouth Society, asked how the P.A.T.A. would be able to effect their object. Mr. Park said that supposing the Chairman sold a proprietary medicine under price, the Local Secretary would inform the General Secretary, who would inform the wholesale house, which would, if in the Association, refuse to supply him. If the wholesale house did not interfere, the proprietor, who was in the Association, would be asked to discontinue to supply the wholesale house. They had only to get half-a-dozen well-known proprietors in, and the wholesale houses were bound to come in. Without, say, Messrs. Elliman, Holloway, Beecham, Wilcox, and a few others, the wholesale houses could not exist. As soon as the proprietors saw the chemists were united they would welcome the movement.

Mr. W. Jones said the Association did not wish to fix the prices. All they wanted was to get a fair profit for their time and trouble in handling the goods.

The Chairman said that life was not worth living if they were to be continually disputing about 1d. or ½d. on patent medicines. For himself, unless he got 20 or 25 per cent., he refused to stock the stuff, and would not have it on his premises. He welcomed the P.A.T.A. as a power in the trade in the future—(hear, hear)—and earnestly appealed to all chemists to support it.

The resolution was then put and carried unanimously.

MEETING OF CHEMISTS IN THE POTTERIES.

At the instigation of the local members of the P.A.T.A. a meeting of the trade in North Staffordshire and district was held on December 3 at Stoke-on-Trent. The trade of the district was well represented. Amongst those present were Messrs. J. Averill, J.P., and Westhead, Stafford; Mr. Hankinson, Uttoxeter; Messrs. J. Poole Williams and Weston Poole, Newcastle; Messrs. Shields and Hewitt, Burslem; Mr. McKee, Tunstall; Messrs. Adams and Holt, Stoke; Messrs. Cornwell, Edmund Jones, and Waldron, Hanley; Messrs. Fisher, Prince, and Turner, Longton; Mr. Jacks, Stone.

Numerous letters apologising for absence were received, and also telegrams from Mr. W. Jones, Chairman Birmingham Trade Committee; Mr. J. W. Moore, Hanley; and Mr. Hartley, Leek.

Mr. Averill, who was voted to the chair, said he was pleased to meet so large a number of his fellow-chemists in the district. Most of them had found that their trade in proprietaries had been carried on with much annoyance, and, in many cases, loss. The trading companies which had been established in their midst in most instances conducted the proprietary branch of their business in a most unfair and unsatisfactory manner—as unfair and unsatisfactory to the proprietor as to the retailer. The past history of the P.A.T.A. was such as to commend that organisation to those present. They had a right to expect to be able to conduct their businesses upon a fair basis. Such a representative gathering was the best proof of the interest taken in the movement by

the trade in that district. It was their duty to do all in their power to assist the movement. He then called upon

Mr. Glyn-Jones, who said he was pleased to be relieved of the necessity of laying before them the objects and methods of the Association, as most of those present were already members. He trusted that those who were not were sufficiently acquainted with their work, and that they had come to the meeting with the intention of joining. He desired to impress upon them the great importance of being in earnest in their support of the P.A.T.A. They could individually render invaluable service, and their assistance would soon be the means of largely increasing the list of protected articles. They should take advantage of every opportunity to place before proprietors who did not protect their views of the matter as retailers, urging upon them the importance of adding their articles to the protected list, and pointing out that the retailers were forced to take a hostile position in regard to articles which were sold without adequate profit. He asked those present to assist by canvassing their fellow chemists, and appealed for volunteers for the office of local secretary in the various towns represented. If the trade wished to secure the co-operation of outstanding proprietors the only way of doing so was by increasing the retail membership of the Association. He was glad to report that during the past few weeks they had made excellent progress; they had never increased so rapidly as during the last two months, and he attributed this to the fact that the fright experienced by the cutters had convinced those who were wavering of the splendid possibilities before the movement. He urged the trade to make a bold stand now that an opportunity was afforded it. This movement had the valuable assistance of a large number of proprietors, and of the majority of the wholesale trade. If the retailers did not show their appreciation of the present movement they must not expect the co-operation of the other sections of the trade in any future attempt which might be made to cope with the evil. The time was coming quickly when all proprietors must decide with whom they were going to throw in their lot—that is, whether they desire the co-operation of the rank and file of the trade or that of the cutters. Some proprietors were, he was sorry to say, sitting on the fence. As retailers, they had a right to expect them to declare their true position. In this matter the trade would be right in concluding that those who were not for them were against them.

Mr. Booth moved

That this meeting of chemists residing in North Staffordshire and district desires to express its appreciation of the work of the P.A.T.A., and to urge upon all proprietors the importance of the adding their preparations to the protected list.

He considered that there could be no doubt as to the importance to manufacturers of their securing a profit to the retail distributors. He commended Mr. Beecham's action in supplying 5*l.* worth at lowest prices, but considered that unless the retail price was protected, it was not of so much advantage.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Griffiths.

Mr. McKee, in supporting, said he was the P.A.T.A.'s local secretary at Tunstall. The five chemists in that town had now joined. He spoke as to the advisability of Mr. Glyn-Jones immediately calling the attention of local secretaries to any contemplated advance in the price of proprietaries, and that through them the members of the trade might be warned not to supply the cutters at the old prices. A prominent firm had already attempted to buy supplies of Beecham's from the local trade. He hoped every chemist would support the movement heartily.

Mr. Fisher, of Longton, also announced that five out of six of the chemists in that town were members.

Mr. Hankinson having spoken in support of the resolution, it was unanimously carried.

The next resolution pledged those present not to distribute advertising matter and exhibit showcards relative to articles upon which a profit is not secured. This was moved by Mr. Jacks, seconded by Mr. Weston Poole, and unanimously carried. Several speakers urged this policy strongly, pointing out that they considered it unreasonable of proprietors to expect them to assist in increasing the sales of articles which yielded no adequate profit.

Mr. Cornwell next moved a resolution pledging the

members to assist in increasing their numbers, and advocated their co-operating on this question.

Mr. Goodman, who seconded, spoke in a similar strain, and the resolution was carried without dissent.

A warm discussion followed in reference to Mr. Beecham's new terms. Mr. Edmund Jones said they were interested not so much in the cost of an article as in the margin between what they paid for it and what they sold it at. He could assure them from experience that, in the matter of protecting, where there was a will there was a way. He had only recently amicably arranged with certain cutting firms to maintain the prices for his articles. He moved

That this meeting of chemists in North Staffordshire and district, whilst desiring to express its appreciation of the reduction in quantity for lowest terms of Beecham's pills, respectfully urges upon the proprietor the necessity for fixing a retail selling-price, as retailers are unable in any way support an unremunerative article.

This was unanimously agreed to, and Mr. Glyn-Jones was asked to convey this resolution to Mr. Beecham.

Mr. Glyn-Jones then introduced the subject of forming a local association, strongly urging the importance of local organisation. He said it fostered an excellent feeling amongst the local members of the trade, and often enabled them to act together in their mutual interests when occasion required.

Mr. Averill proposed the formation of such a local association, to be called the North Staffordshire Chemists' Association. Mr. Edmund Jones seconded the motion, which was carried amidst applause. On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Cornwell, Mr. Edmund Jones was appointed Secretary *pro tem.*, and was entrusted with the duties of preliminary organisation.

The usual votes of thanks to Mr. Glyn-Jones and the Chairman brought a long and interesting meeting to a close.

Mr. W. J. Leggett, of Liverpool, Honorary Secretary of the Patent-medicine Vendors' Defence Association (Limited) (an Association which was originally formed for the benefit of the dealers in patent medicines who were not qualified to sell poisons), informs us that at the annual meeting of his Association, held at Manchester on Wednesday, a resolution was unanimously passed repudiating the action of the P.A.T.A., and expressing the opinion that the effort to compel every trader to sell at one price would be unsuccessful.

Day's Southern Drug Company (Limited) have sent to Messrs. Lambert & Co. the memorial of their customers in reference to the price of Scott's pills. The memorial is expressed as follows:—

TO MESSRS. W. LAMBERT & COMPANY,
173 Seymour Place, W.

Gentlemen,

We, the undersigned, habitual purchasers of Scott's pills, regret to learn that they have come under the control of a Combination for raising prices, which prohibits retailers from selling them for less than 1*s.* and 2*s.* 6*d.* for 1*s.* 1*d.* and 2*s.* 9*d.* sizes respectively.

We strongly object to Combinations of this kind, and do not feel disposed to pay these prices for Scott's pills. We have no wish to cease using them and to adopt another medicine in their place, but we shall have no alternative, unless you can see your way to withdraw this medicine from the control of the Combination referred to, which we respectfully beg that you will do, and thereby retain the custom and receive the thanks of:—

Then follow the signatures of 2,490 customers which were collected in the company's various establishment on 103 sheets. The company state that they strictly confined the signatures to those of users of Scott's pills, as far as it was in their power to do so.

PRESCRIBING CHEMISTS must be *compelled* to exhibit salicylate of soda, in all cases of sore throat, from cold, and to recognize their grave responsibility in the matter of sore throats. So says Mr. Barker Smith, I.R.C.P., who is on the register of chemists and druggists.

GOLD MEDALS 1884-1885-1886-1888.

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TRADE
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"SANITAS" EUCALYPTUS PREPARATIONS.

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Preserved Peroxide of Hydrogen,

Mercuric Bactericide, Eucalyptus Oils.

L. G. B. Corrosive Sublimate	} Soluble Pellets.
Permanganate of Potash	
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"Okol" and "Creocide" Fluids and Powders; Chloride of Zinc; Carbolic Fluids, Powders, Acid, and Soaps; Soluble Carbolated Creosote; Moth Paper; Weed Destroyer, Sheep Dips, &c.

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City Agents, RAE & CO., 6 Railway Place, Fenchurch Street, E.C.
And of all Chemists, Wine Merchants, Hotels, &c.

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would undertake one or two additional
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Special connexion amongst Doctors
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COD LIVER OIL.

The Finest Medicinal Oil made.

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PLEASE GET OUR PRICES.

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quality of the gas is excel-
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"The devices resorted to for opening ITROSYL
are worthy of a museum. I heard the other day of
one gentleman who crushed a cartridge with a pair
of nut-crackers, and Messrs. Fletcher inform me
that the pestle and mortar is often called into
requisition. Others, regardless of the fact that
ITROSYL boils at about 70° F."—

"TRUTH" AND

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETIES.

We are not surprised that the Council of the Pharmaceutical
Society of Ireland are in some degree indignant at the sneer
against their examinations which the Editor of *Truth* recently
alleged was made to his representative by an official of

the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. The organ of the latter society professes to regard the allegation as one hardly worth notice. This is an attitude which will have to be abandoned in view of the paragraph which appears in this week's *Truth*, and which we append. *Truth* says:

An impudent paragraph has appeared in a trade paper called the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, suggesting that when I published, the other day, information derived from the office of the Pharmaceutical Society, I was either inventing or repeating the inventions of the gentleman whom I sent to the Society's office. It is fortunate that this pharmaceutical journalist is employed in a newspaper office rather than in a chemist's shop, or his hastiness and lack of perception might be attended with fatal results. The fact is that I sent to the Pharmaceutical Society for a certain information, and it was accorded without any hesitation. My representative states that he was courteously received, and spent some time in conversation with the official in charge. As this publication states that "inquiry on the spot fails to throw any light on the matter," I conclude that its representative has been less fortunate than mine, which may have made him angry, but does not justify him in calling me a liar. The strange thing about it is that while this pharmaceutical scribe has gone out of his way to publish these offensive remarks, he carefully avoids the real question at issue—which is, that the Pharmaceutical Society refuses to allow Irish licentiates to trade in England because it is not satisfied with the Irish examination. I made that statement on the authority of a representative of the Pharmaceutical Society. Is the statement denied, or is it not? If it is to be denied, let the Society officially deny it. I do not believe that it will do so, and I do not believe it will contradict me when I say that it has in specific cases found Irish licentiates to be incapable of passing the English examinations. At any rate, it is certain that the Society does refuse to recognise the Irish qualification, and why an English trade journal should fall foul of me for stating that the Society has the best reason for this refusal is more that I can understand.

No one can consider, in the face of this very definite statement of facts, that the curiously-guarded denial made by the Secretary of the British Society, which will be found in our report of the last meeting of the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland on a previous page, is sufficient to set the matter at rest; and the Irish Council are, in our opinion, abundantly justified in pressing for an exact statement as to what actually took place when the *Truth* inquirer called, and for an official justification or retraction of the charge, if it should prove that the statement depreciating the Irish examination was really made.

ST. JACOBS OIL AND THE TRADE.

A ST. JACOBS OIL calendar is, we understand, ready to be circulated in the Bradford district, and in it is inserted a green fly-leaf, on which the following correspondence is printed:—

74 Manningham Lane, Bradford,
November 19, 1896.

To Mr. Wm. E. Geddes.

SIR,—I am instructed by the Council of our Association (also by the members, who comprise most of the chemists in Bradford and district) to inform you that a resolution was recently passed "That we, the chemists of Bradford, assist and co-operate only with those proprietors of nostrums who join, or have joined, the Proprietary Articles Trades' Association, and consent to have their articles put upon the Protected List." We are, of course, willing to co-operate, but only on the above conditions being fulfilled; so that, under the circumstances, your "billing" Bradford, or otherwise advertising, will amount to time and money being thrown away, and the waste-paper basket being the fuller.

On behalf of the Council,

I remain, sincerely yours,

S. N. PICKARD,
Hon. Sec. Bradford and District
Chemists' Association.

45 Farringdon Road, London,
November 20, 1896

To S. N. Pickard, Esq.

DEAR SIR,—I have to-day received your communication of the 19th. While it has always been our desire to facilitate chemists in handling our goods and to always treat them in a straightforward manner, and while we always feel sorry to lose the goodwill of the chemists, we are not disposed to be coerced, by threats such as you use in your letter, to conduct our business other than we consider to our best interests, the interests of the public, and to the interests of those of our friends who buy most of our goods from us. Therefore, we will tell you plainly, whether our goods sell in Bradford or not, we shall advertise there, in accordance with the plans we have already laid out. We shall not place our goods on what you please to term the "protected list," and whether or not we lose money in Bradford, that is a matter of our own concern.

We suggest, however, that we shall not lose the sale of one single bottle of St. Jacobs Oil or Vogeler's Curative Compound because we are boycotted by the Bradford and District Chemists' Association, which you say comprises most of the chemists in Bradford and district (but up to the present writing this has not been confirmed). As you have threatened us, however, we shall endeavour to make it known to the citizens of Bradford the position your Association takes in the matter, in order that we may not suffer by any action which your Association may take in reference to our specialities.

Yours very truly,
P.P. THE CHARLES A. VOGELER CO.,
Wm. E. Geddes, European Manager.

In explanation of these letters, Mr. Geddes states, on the reverse of the fly-leaf, that one of the objects of the Bradford Chemists' Association is to force up the price of proprietary medicines considerably higher than that at which they can be obtained from the more progressive and enterprising dealers, "such as Taylor's Drug Company (Limited)," where the public are recommended to go for this speciality; and the public are also advised "not to accept a substitute on any consideration whatever, as such will only be offered by unprincipled chemists whose sole object is that of gain." This is strong and quite unjustifiable language. We can understand that the "European manager of the Charles A. Vogeler Company" may have felt somewhat irritated at the tone adopted by the Bradford chemists, and he has a right, of course, to recommend customers who may wish to get his oil to go to particular shops. But he has no right whatever to brand as "unprincipled" all chemists who choose to push some other liniment instead of his, whether this is done with the object of gain or from any other motive. Anyone who substitutes another oil and seeks to lead the public to believe that he is selling St. Jacobs oil is "unprincipled," and Mr. Geddes has, as he well knows, a short and easy remedy against tricks of that kind. But this, we take it, is not by any means all that Mr. Geddes means. By "substitution" we presume he means the recommendation of another article in preference to his own when his own has been asked for. That is to say he denounces and wants the public to regard as "unprincipled" anyone who competes with him in the manufacture of an embrocation for rheumatism. If he had published that statement about a particular individual he would have rendered himself liable to an action for libel; but it is not practicable for a body of men to adopt this remedy. With this compliment in face of them, and with the knowledge that from a pecuniary point of view business in his article is not worth having, Mr. Geddes may now expect an active antagonism from the chemists whom he insults, which the efforts of his progressive and enterprising friends, "such as Taylor's Drug Company (Limited)," will hardly compensate him for.

LAC BISMUTHI.

UNDER this heading, in our 1897 DIARY, page 277, it is stated that Messrs. Symes & Co., who originated this preparation, have not protected the title. This is an error which we wish all who have received the DIARY to correct by erasing the words to that effect. We have ascertained that

in 1879 Messrs. Symes registered as a trade-mark the words "Lac Bismuthi," in combination with two branches of foliage, and this mark having been renewed in 1892 is still in force. Messrs. Symes & Co. inform us that they regard the use of the title "Lac Bismuthi" by any except themselves as an infringement of their rights, and any instance of so using they will immediately put in the hands of their solicitors for legal procedure. We much regret that the erroneous statement should have been made in the *DIARY*.

THE DENTISTS ACT AND CHEMISTS.

In an article on the One-man Company decision the *British Journal of Dental Science* says:—

A few weeks ago we pointed out the fact that THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST wished to place its own construction on the Dentists Act in favour of chemists who illegally held themselves out to be specially qualified to practise dentistry. What with this attack, and the recent decision concerning companies, the Dentists Act would seem to be in danger of becoming a dead letter, and the unqualified and unprincipled adventurer has the way smoothed in his competition with the man who has laboriously trodden in the straight and narrow way of professional curriculum and professional uprightness.

Could our claim have been more inaccurately stated? We say the dentists are claiming more from their Act than its words justify, and we ask for a High Court decision on the point. They say we want to place our own construction on the Act in favour of chemists who are acting "illegally." If they are the High Court will soon tell us. We note that the *B.J.D.S.* does not seem to have much hope that the Act could resist our attack.

PRISTINE FRESHNESS IN JOURNALISM.

We have to acknowledge that we published in our issue of November 23 last the substance of a paper by Mr. D. Hooper, the Government Quinologist, Ootacamund, Madras, on camphor-leaf oil, under a misapprehension. We found the note in certain Indian papers, and we assumed that it was, like many other similar papers which we receive direct from the department, an official communication from Mr. Hooper's laboratory to his Government. We still believe this to be the case; but we observe that the *Pharmaceutical Journal* of December 5 states that the note was originally published in its own pages in January last, and suggests that it was a special communication. There was no indication of this in any of the publications in which we saw the article, and the *Pharmaceutical Journal* does not say it was in direct language. We have no wish, however, to rob that paper of any glory to which it is entitled, and therefore we mention the occurrence. But we observe with some surprise the discourteous manner in which the claim is put forward. Our contemporary publishes an anonymous letter, signed "Fairplay," and headed "A Journalistic Oversight (?)," and in that letter our slip is again referred to as "an oversight (?)." Whoever may have written the letter, the Editor is responsible for its appearance and for its title, which distinctly imply that readers should not be foolish enough to believe us if we should try to shelter our culpability behind the excuse of "oversight." It is not necessary for us to go back to last January to discover paragraphs in the *Pharmaceutical Journal*, whose "pristine freshness has long faded"—to use our contemporary's own expression. Last week's issue alone contains no fewer than sixteen items which had been brought to the knowledge of the trade by THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST a week, a fortnight and, in some cases, three weeks earlier. We make no suggestion as to the way in which these were acquired, but we may remind our sarcastic friend of the familiar advice to residents in glass houses.

THE "LANCET" ON LAING.

The *Lancet* does not know whether to take Mr. Alexander Laing, of Glasgow, seriously or not, which does not reflect

very brilliant insight. Mr. Laing's paper on the "Relation of Medicine to Pharmacy" troubles our contemporary; and it admits that medical men, considering what they have to learn nowadays, cannot be as expert in pharmaceutical matters as they may have been once upon a time. The *Lancet* hits the point when it says:—

"If the old prescriptions of mixture and pill are more or less things of the past, it is surely through advances made by pharmaceutical chemists that they have been ousted from their position. Many of them undoubtedly were nauseous and unattractive, and it might be open to question whether the increased training of medical students in pharmacy would do much to remedy these defects or would convince the public that mixtures and draughts are preferable to equally efficacious and more attractive preparations. The reader of the paper has let his subject run away with him, and in his remarks on the British Pharmacopoeia he was speaking without due knowledge of the steps that are being taken by the General Medical Council in the compilation of the new edition."

Which is very true; but it is not every Glasgow chemist and druggist who is made the subject of a *Lancet* leader. We observe, however, that the rather threadbare subject, vaccination, preceded the Laing article last week, so our contemporary may have been short of subjects.

Marriage.

LAW—FRAME.—On December 3, at the Windsor Hotel, by the Rev. John Stevenson, B.D., Kilcreggan, William T. Law, chemist and druggist, Partick, to Kate Murray, third daughter of William Frame, Glasgow and Kilcreggan.

PUCKLE—FELLOWS.—On December 3, at St. Peter's Church, Eaton Square, by the Rev. E. Ker Gray, LL.D., incumbent of St. George's Chapel, Albemarle Street, assisted by the Rev. John Storrs, Vicar of the parish, and the Rev. W. P. Pearce, rector of Welwyn, Herts, John Puckle, Esq., A.S.C., eldest son of Colonel H. G. Puckle, M.S.C., to Mary (Daisy) Partelow, daughter of the late Hon. James I. Fellows, and of Mrs. Fellows, of 41 Ennismore Gardens, S.W.

THOMPSON—JACKSON.—On November 18, at Victoria Wesleyan Chapel, Grimsby, by Rev. H. Barraclough, Alfred Tebbutt Thompson, of Derby, to Clara J. Jackson, Victoria Street, Grimsby.

Deaths.

ALEXANDER.—On November 29, Mr. William Alexander, pharmaceutical chemist, 2 Manor Road, Twickenham. Aged 68.

AUDUS.—On November 30, Mr. William George Audus, chemist and druggist, of Edinburgh. Aged 38.

BLACK.—Mr. James Hall Black, chemist, Moffat, died suddenly on Tuesday December 8, aged 55. Deceased was for some years a magistrate in Moffat.

BORTHWICK.—On December 4, Mr. Alexander John Borthwick, chemist and druggist, Selkirk. Aged 51. He had been in business in Selkirk for twenty-two years, and was one of its most prominent citizens.

CARTWRIGHT.—On November 27, Mr. William Bryan Cartwright, chemist and druggist, of Stratford. Aged 54.

GOODWIN.—On November 23, Mr. John Goodwin, pharmaceutical chemist, of Lower Clapton, London. Aged 76.

LEIGH.—The death occurred in Brighton on Tuesday, December 8, of Mr. Marshall Leigh, pharmaceutical chemist, who, a few years ago, took a prominent part in pharmaceutical affairs. Shortly after passing the Major examination, and taking the Pharmaceutical Council's silver medal in 1879, Mr. Leigh interested himself in provincial pharmaceutical education, and with energy entered into the affairs of the Local Association. When the late Mr. W. D. Savage retired

from the Pharmaceutical Council in 1839 Mr. Leigh was elected in his place, and he retained his seat until 1871, when he retired. His health had then begun to fail, and from this time he gradually gave up active participation in business and public affairs. He leaves a widow and five children, for whom great sympathy will be felt in the wide circle in which Mr. Leigh was known and respected.

LUMSDEN.—On November 23, Mr. John Lumsden, chemist and druggist, of King Edward, Aberdeenshire. Aged 75.

NOBEL.—Mr. Alfred Nobel, the Swedish chemist, and inventor of dynamite, died at San Remo on Wednesday last. The first dynamite factory was founded by his firm at Ardeer, in Ayrshire, in 1873.

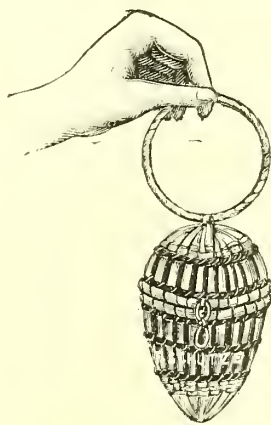
ROACH.—On December 7, Emily Edith, the dearly-beloved wife of Pope Roach, pharmaceutical chemist, of 33 Castlenau Villas, Barnes, and 8 St. James's Street, S.W., fourth daughter of the late Thomas How, of Gordon House, Chiswick. Aged 73.

STONHAM.—On December 6, Mr. William Burne Stonham, pharmaceutical chemist, Maidstone. Aged 39.

Our Town Traveller.

NEW IDEAS IN WINDOW-DRESSING.

SUCH a time has elapsed since I gave Messrs. F. SCHUTZE & Co. a call that I scarcely knew their place at 36A Aldersgate Street, E.C., when I did visit it the other day, they have so much extended it. Within the past three years they have added first one floor, then another, of Shaftesbury Hall, to the original first floor, and as they cannot get beyond the roof they have taken premises adjoining, where perfumes are to be put up and packed. They are doing a big thing in perfumes just now, by the way, Grant et Cie. being their trade-name for this department. One thing, apart from the quality of the perfumes and elegance of their get-up, which has fostered the growth of their perfume-department is the fact that with every order they give sufficient moss and artificial flowers to make a window-decoration. There is a little model of such a window in the showroom, and very attractive it is. Then they have carried the same idea to the perfumes themselves especially for Christmas trade. A



bottle of violet de Parme is put in a pretty little basket in a bed of moss and artificial violets, this to retail at 2s. 6d.—the price of the perfume really. A smaller bottle, not so elaborately garnished, sells at 2s., and there are bottles down to 6d. each with a floral decoration. The same applies to all odours for which there is a corresponding flower—e.g., heliotrope, lily of the valley, white rose—there is a bunch of each of these along with the perfume in the basket.

I show the style of the bottle and its decoration. The firm also put up some handsome satin boxes containing one, two, or three cut-glass bottles of perfumes to retail at from

4s. 6d. to a guinea. The second illustration shows a new automatic odorator for rooms. It is a realisation of an idea put forward in the *C. & D.* years ago, and consists of a basket filled with dried moss, upon which is sprinkled any perfume desired. It will retail at 6d., and is sure to be popular. It is called the "Ampel." Another window-show is for buttermilk-soap—a nice white soap in halls to retail at 4d. To make this go they supply moss enough to turn the shop window into a pasture-field, a dairymaid with her stool and milk-pail, two or more cows, a vase to hold the balls of soap, and showcards. It is a simple arrangement, and so homely as to "fetch" anyone. Besides these things, I was shown others during my visit, including a new throat-protector made of hygienic fleecy stockingette, which fits below the collar without being seen, and effectually protects the throat; also several nice manicure sets made in England and beautifully finished, new things in spray-producers and in cut-glass perfume and salt bottles, and some good lines in counter-specialities. As I was leaving there were also leaving window-shows for Grant's perfumes which *C. & D.* subscribers in Kimberley and India had ordered, and the manager told me that there are several of them to be seen now in West-end shops.

THE CAPITAL OF THE GROSSMITH DYNASTY.

In that part of Newgate Street where the residence of the Grossmith dynasty used to stand there is now a great gap, making the old street look like a giant set of teeth from which an incisor has been torn. The house of Grossmith, however, has not been removed far away—in fact, from the upper storey of the new place you look down upon the excavations that are still carried on at the root of the old one, where a Central London Railway station is about to be built. I speak of the Grossmith dynasty because there appear, in a nice treatise on perfumery given me by the present head of the house, the portraits of "Grossmith I.," taken in 1836, and of "Grossmith II.," taken in 1893. The future Grossmith III. is at present at Grasse, apprenticed to the same manufacturer of *matieres premières* from whom his father learned the art and mystery of his craft. Judging by the brisk appearance of the present ruler, there is a long heir-apparentship in store for the young man.

I met Mr. Grossmith outside his shop, inspecting the show-window, about which he is very particular. "Next to scent-blending, colour-blending is the most difficult thing in perfumery," said he; "and our troubles are increased by the fact that nine out of ten people are colour-blind so far as the sense of artistic effect is concerned."

"I should have thought that would have lightened your labour; but now that I think of it, I remember that some French writer of the decadent school has written an essay on the relationship between odours and colours. It is quite a long affair, as easy as Hegel's Philosophy. Let me recommend you to tackle it when you want some light reading."

We walked in. The building is still in the decorators' hands, but it is far enough finished to show that it is going to be one of the most luxurious perfumery establishments in London. The woodwork of the lower floors is mostly English oak, painted a rich bergamot-green colour, with partitions enamelled in white; soft carpets in the reception-rooms and private offices, and a good deal of cast-brass finishing. "I don't believe in having a business-place like a barn," said Mr. Grossmith. "My people and I spend about a third of our lives here; why should we not have something better than hare walls, a cheap desk, and a shabby floor? If I had merely wanted to take the most I could out of



the business I should have retired twenty years ago, but I look upon it as an investment for my son. Therefore, I don't mind sinking my money in it, and when people buy my goods they know that they get a thing on which the experience of a lifetime has been spent, and which is really finished. Let us take a walk round." There are five floors in the new building, all heated by steam, lit by electric light, and in telephonic communication with Mr. Grossmith's own room. The same communication extends to the big old wholesale warehouse at the back of the new building. The top floor is for storage. On the fourth are the drying and packing rooms for soap, which is sent up from the factory in a lift. Thence we descend to a floor where workwomen are busily packing sachet, face, and tooth powders, smelling-salts, brillantane, and cosmetics. Here is also the powder-mixing room. The second floor is the real perfume-workshop. There is an ingenious new mixing-machine with double eccentric action, in which the scent-stock is beaten up in opposite directions simultaneously, a freezing-apparatus, and a new filter-press which filters perfumes much more rapidly and with greater purity than the ordinary funnel-method. Here also are two 300-gallon store-tanks of spirit of wine, communicating with a tube to the mixing-room. No spirit need, therefore, be carried about the place. *Hasu-no-Hana* (which, admirers say, is a misnomer for *Hasu-yes-Hana*), and *Phul-Nānā* (the Wise Man's scent) require a 100-gallon store-tank each. Mr. Grossmith has a bonded factory at the docks for export, but he feels aggrieved that an exacting Chancellor of the Exchequer won't allow him to use duty-free spirit for his home trade. "I pay H.M. about 3,000*l.* a year for spirit-duty, and my French competitors pay practically nothing at all in their own country. Do you know that a French perfumer, with my annual turnover, would make five times my profit?" I tried hard to sympathise with Mr. Grossmith, but I think that with a business like his one can manage to jog along, spirit-duty notwithstanding. We passed through the compounding and stock rooms, and down to the first floor, where the offices are, and where a waiting-room is being prepared in which it will be a luxury to pass half an hour. In the basement there is a soap-milling plant, but a good deal of the firm's soap is still made by the old process.

"The two work very well together, but we should not think of entirely abandoning our old system for the milling one," was Mr. Grossmith's verdict. "As for artificial musk and other synthetic perfumes, our experience is dead against them. Scents made with natural products, if well made, improve year by year. Scents made with synthetic perfumes, no matter how well made, deteriorate year by year. We have tried both (as the proverbial Scotchman said), and we know that the genuine thing pays best in the end."

THE PHARMACEUTICAL "FURNISH THROUGHOUT" MAN

was my next victim—to wit, Mr. Philip Josephs, of 54 Old Street, E.C., and elsewhere in the same neighbourhood, for Mr. Josephs's stock is always overflowing from one house into another, then another, and so on. I wanted to get from him an explanation of the new departure in shop-fitting, which he has made the subject of page 103 in the 1891 *C. & D. DIARY*. There he describes five classes of fittings, costing 45*l.*, 55*l.*, 70*l.*, 80*l.*, and 100*l.*, each complete—that is to say, comprising the drawers and shelving behind the counter, and bottles and jars to put on the shelves; a dispensing-counter, a serving-counter, and cases and desk to put on it; a wall showcase for the front of the counter, and an enclosure for the window. It would have suited me nicely to have seen all that in one room, but failing my ideal, I got a good notion of the whole thing by an inspection of the behind-the-counter arrangement—one of the 70*l.* lot. The shelving and cornice are good, and the range is divided into two parts by a poison-cupboard, which fills the space from the cornice to the top of the drawers, and is fitted with a mirrored door. The top of the drawers is polished mahogany; there are four rows of drawers—two of small and two of large drawers—with bevelled-edge glass labels cemented upon the polished mahogany fronts, and the knobs are glass—cut-glass in the case of the dearer fittings. There are lockers below. The bottles are gold-labelled, and the pots the same. It is a good fixture for the money, and everything else in the complete set, as I afterwards saw, is in harmony with it. I

need not go into the complete specification, seeing that that is already done in the advertisement, and will only add that Mr. Josephs has such fixtures always ready and can despatch them in response to a telegram, packed and complete, and may send workmen with them to do the fitting up if required. I was about to begin my questions about this "new departure," when a customer came in whom I knew, and I was an interested spectator of the bit of business he did with Mr. Josephs. One lot was bought—a few odd fittings coming to 4*l.* or 5*l.* "I want these to-night" (this was at 5 o'clock). In a trice a van-man was in the room and agreed to deliver the goods eight miles away for 7*s.* Then a cheque was written out. "I'll pay the other lot on delivery. Now what about those shop-rounds?" "How many do you want?" "A hundred or so." "There's a good shop-round with gold labels—an English-made bottle, well finished—I can do you for 9*s.* 6*d.* a doz." "Umph! Here's a lot in the *C. & D. Supplement*—five dozen for 2*l.*; I'll see these." "No, they won't suit you, Mr. Blank; I know them. Better take mine now and be done with it; or you can pick what you want out of the unlabelled lot downstairs, and I'll label them for you at 2*s.* 9*d.* a dozen." Then they passed on to discuss the qualities and price of a magnificent showcase to stand in the centre of a shop-floor. It was 6 feet long, 3½ feet high, and 3 feet wide, made of splendid plate glass, and with one plate-glass shelf filling the whole space in the centre, and smaller shelves round the edges. The venue had to be changed before the bargain could be struck, and then we went back to the office while the 17*l.* 10*s.* cheque was signed. I describe this bit of business because it is typical of Mr. Josephs's methods. He pays cash, expects to get cash, and gets it. His customer gone, I had now leisure to walk through the showrooms and workshops, where I saw such things as drawers, desks, showcases, and other fixtures in course of construction. I noted the well-seasoned wood, and that such things as drawers are allowed to season for several months after they are made and before they are polished. Mr. Josephs pointed out to me that the mahogany desk and perfume-case, which go with the complete shop-fittings, are a special line—45*s.* they sell at. He also called my attention to the gradually increasing finish and superior style of the fittings as one goes from the 55*l.* to the 100*l.* set. I specially noted that the counter in the latter is glazed in front with plate glass and nicely shelved; the back is full of drawers. The dispensing-counter is a beauty, and has a nice sponge bin in the centre; the show cases are well finished and elegant, and bits of carving are introduced into the pilasters of the shelving. Next we passed on to inspect bottles, carboys, show-jars, and all the other things required to fit up a shop, Mr. Josephs wishing to assure me that he had the goods always in stock and that it is good and cheap. About these points there is no question, and I do not hesitate to commend the new departure in shop-fittings to those interested. Apart from supplying ready-made and second-hand shop furniture, Mr. Josephs designs and constructs fittings for any shop. I saw plans for pharmacies in South Africa and France, as well as in England, and it may be noted that these are packed and sent in such a way that when unpacked the fixtures are put together with screw-nails. I may also add that the business was established by Mr. Josephs's father in 1826, and the third generation will shortly be taken into it, in the person of Mr. Philip Josephs, jun., who has been assisting his father for some years, and is an expert valuer and practical cabinet-maker.

DR. E. M. MOORE, a Buffalo physician, who was intimately connected with the discovery of ether anaesthesia, is alive, and strikingly like Mr. W. E. Gladstone.

MEDICAL PLANTS IN THE CAUCASUS.—A Russian business-man settled in the Caucasus last year for the purpose of carrying out experiments in the cultivation of medicinal herbs and essential-oil plants. Pending the receipt of the required permission from Government for carrying out his undertaking, he investigated the Caucasian flora, and discovered a great variety of medicinal herbs, the result being that he has received large orders from many Russian firms of druggists. With a view to encouraging the cultivation of the castor-oil plant, the Russian Imperial Bank has been authorised to make advances on castor-seed.

Legal Reports.

COUNTY COURT CASES.

THE LADY PATENT-MEDICINE LECTURER.

IN the Cardiff County Court on December 4, before Judge Owen, a stylishly-dressed young lady named Louisa Ball, who described herself as a professional lecturer, sued a patent-medicine vendor, named James Phillips, for 3*l.* 10*s.* 6*d.* for services rendered in attending markets and fairs for the purpose of pushing the sale of his wares. Plaintiff said she was engaged as a lecturer at 1*l.* a week and all expenses. She was allowed a fortnight in which to learn the lectures, and on November 14 she started on her travels, visiting Pontypriid, Barry, and other places. In a fortnight she had spent 1*l.* 10*s.* 11*d.* in travelling-expenses; this sum the defendant had not paid, and so she declined to lecture any longer. His Honour: Were you to wear any particular costume? (Laughter.) Plaintiff: Well, sir, the defendant was supposed to find me something decent. His Honour: Was the costume arranged? Plaintiff: It was to be a good dress, but of course he had to choose. His Honour: Something striking, I suppose. (Laughter.) Plaintiff: Yes, he said he wanted something striking, but I didn't get it. Defendant said the plaintiff only worked four days in the fortnight, and he had paid her in all 2*l.* 15*s.* 3*d.*; besides, at Barry she lectured in the dark. His Honour: Wouldn't that be as useful as lecturing in the light? You didn't give her that striking costume, so it was no use lighting up. (Laughter.) Eventually his Honour gave judgment for the plaintiff for 2*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

ARSENICAL SOAP.

AT the Brentford Petty Sessions, on December 5, Septimus Wolgate, chemist, Ealing Broadway, was summoned by Mr. Walter Tyler, Inspector for the Western Division of Middlesex, for selling arsenical soap, which, as it contained no arsenic, was not of the "nature, substance, and quality" of the article demanded by the purchaser. Mr. Ward Coleridge appeared for the defendant.

Inspector Tyler having briefly explained his case, went into the witness-box and stated that on November 22 his assistant purchased of Mr. Wolgate, for 6*d.*, a tablet of arsenical soap, which had impressed upon it the words "Arsenical Toilet Soap for the Complexion." The soap was divided into three parts, and one part was analysed by the county analyst, whose certificate that it contained no arsenic he produced.

Mr. Coleridge: You purchased a toilet soap?—I purchased an arsenical soap.

You purchased a soap which was described as "absolutely harmless"?—As I said before, I purchased an arsenical soap.

Mr. Coleridge: At any rate, the soap was described as a complexion soap?—As an arsenical complexion soap.

Further cross-examined, witness said if he purchased cucumber soap, he should expect the analyst to find in it some trace of essence of cucumber. He could not say whether there was any recognised standard for the manufacture of these soaps; they were not included in the British Pharmacopoeia. He did not know whether a substantial quantity of arsenic in a soap would be dangerous; but he should expect to find some arsenic in any soap described as arsenical.

Mr. Coleridge: Is not arsenical soap on the same footing with sulphur soap?

The Chairman (interrupting): We have nothing to do with sulphur soap.

Mr. E. J. Bevan, public analyst for Middlesex, said he had had considerable experience in analysing soaps, and also in analysing substances for poisons. He analysed very carefully the sample of soap submitted to him by the last witness, and he could find no trace of arsenic in it. If he purchased a tablet of arsenical soap he should expect to find arsenic in it.

Mr. Coleridge: Would not a soap containing a substantial amount of arsenic be highly dangerous?—It depends upon what you call substantial. A soap might contain arsenic and not be dangerous if used with proper caution.

Suppose I made a soap containing 50 per cent. of white arsenic, would not that be dangerous to use for the face?—I should say so. There would be absorption of the arsenic through the skin.

If an arsenical soap were sold to you as "absolutely harmless," would not that suggest to your mind that there was no arsenic in it?—It would suggest to my mind that either the words "absolutely harmless" were untrue, or that the term "arsenical" was a misdescription.

In reply to further questions, witness said he should expect to find honey in honey soap, elder in elder soap, and essence of white roses in white-rose soap. The quantity of each would depend upon the taste of the manufacturer; there was no standard such as the British Pharmacopoeia. He should regard arsenical soap as a medicinal preparation. Similarly, he should regard sulphur soap sold for the complexion as a medicinal preparation, or, in other words, a drug. Witness described the method of his analysis. Asked whether arsenic might not have been carried off by the fatty acids which he precipitated, he said that he tested the fatty acids with ether in which they were perfectly soluble. If arsenic had been present it would not have been soluble. There were, of course, limits to the accuracy of his analysis. There might have been arsenic in the soap, but it was not present in an appreciable quantity. To illustrate what he meant by an appreciable quantity, witness produced a test-tube showing the "mirror" produced by three millionths of a grain of arsenic. Witness added that if he were told that 1*gr.* of arsenic had been put into a ton of the soap he would not be prepared to deny it. If a small quantity of arsenic were added to a large quantity of soap it would be difficult to equally distribute it through the mass. Because there was no arsenic in the sample he examined, he could not say there was none in the rest of the soap made at the same time.

Mr. Montgomery (a Magistrate): Would it be possible for there to be sufficient arsenic in the soap to be traceable in analysis, but yet not dangerous?

Witness: Yes.

Mr. Coleridge said he should call evidence to show that there was arsenic in the soap, but he should first address himself to the important point whether the soap could be held to be a drug. If it were not a drug, then the summons must be dismissed, for the Food and Drugs Act dealt only, as its name implied, with food and drugs. He had asked the witnesses, and they had said that they would regard arsenical and sulphur soaps on the same footing. Well, the question whether sulphur soap was or was not a drug was argued before Mr. Lane, Q. C., a stipendiary magistrate, and the case was fully reported in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST for October 20, 1894. Mr. Lane held that sulphur soap was not a curative medicine, and that it was, therefore, not a drug any more than tar soap was a drug. The summons was dismissed, and the prosecution was so well satisfied with the Stipendiary's decision that they did not appeal against it. The present case was on all fours with that case, and he, therefore, claimed that it must be dismissed. The manufacturer in this case made an excellent toilet soap—an ordinary cleanser—and he chose to call it an arsenical soap for the complexion. He knew that arsenic in substantial quantities was dangerous, but to save the name he put in a small quantity of arsenic. In conclusion, Mr. Coleridge said that, briefly, his case was that this soap was not a drug within the meaning of the Act, and that, if it was, it did contain arsenic.

Mr. Horatio Nelson Bolton, trading under the title of T. F. Bristowe & Co., of Clerkenwell, said he could 'fix' the boiling from which the soap referred to in this case came. It was an arsenical soap, made, not as a medicinal preparation, but as a toilet soap for the complexion. There was arsenic in it—2½ *gr.* to every 3 *cwt.* of soap. He would prefer to use a substantial quantity of arsenic, for arsenic was very cheap; he did not do so because arsenic in large quantities was dangerous. He knew of a case in which five children died through using a face-powder in which there was a considerable quantity of arsenic.

Mr. Montgomery: But why do you use arsenic at all if you can only use it in such infinitesimal quantities?—Because it is an arsenical soap.

But why call it "arsenical"?—Because our customers ask for an arsenical soap, and we are compelled to supply it.

The Chairman: Is arsenic good for the complexion?—It may be; people think it is. Witness added that there was no honey in honey soap, no white rose in white-rose soap, no cherry in cherry tooth-paste. These are fancy names, just as Sunlight soap was a fancy name.

Mr. Tyler: Your only reason for calling this soap arsenical is to increase the value?—No.

Could the retailer get 6d. a tablet for it if it were not sold under a fancy name?—I am not a retailer.

Septimus Wolgate, the defendant, said that he sold the soap as a toilet soap, not as a medicinal preparation. He did not think people bought it as a medicinal preparation.

Mr. Coleridge submitted that he had proved his case—that this soap was not a drug, and that it did contain arsenic. Honey soap had been sold for years, he said, without interference.

Mr. Montgomery: So might this be if it were what it is represented to be.

Mr. Coleridge: If the Bench holds that this soap is a drug, it will open up a glorious vista to barristers.

The Bench retired to consider their decision. On their return, the Chairman said that the Magistrates had carefully considered the case, and had come to the conclusion that this soap was a drug. It was sold for external application, because people believed that it contained arsenic, and that arsenic was good for the complexion. People gave 6d. for a tablet of soap which was only worth $\frac{1}{2}$ d. or $\frac{1}{4}$ d., because they believed that it was specially good for the complexion. The Magistrates further believed that the soap did not contain arsenic, and there must, therefore, be a conviction. The defendant would be fined 5s. and costs.

Mr. Coleridge applied to the Bench to state a case on the legal point whether the soap was a drug, and the Bench agreed to do so.

ERNEST WARD STRICKLAND, another Ealing chemist, was similarly summoned. Mr. R. A. Germaine appeared for the defendant.

The circumstances in this case were practically the same as in that reported above, except that the soap in question was "Dr. King's arsenical soap," which the defendant did not suggest contained any arsenic. Mr. Germaine, however, contended that the summons ought to be dismissed on the following grounds, any one of which was, he argued, fatal, viz:—

(1) That the analyst's certificate was insufficient, as it was not in the form prescribed by the Act, containing only the statement that there was no arsenic in the soap instead of giving its constituent parts.

(2) That the removal of a constituent part of a drug was not an offence under the Food and Drugs Act, the section which dealt with such abstraction being the 8th, which referred to food only.

(3) That the soap was not a drug.

(4) That the prosecution should have been instituted, if at all, under the Merchandise Marks Act, as in a recent case, in which a man was fined for selling flannelette which contained no flannel.

(5) That the invoice received by defendant with the soap was a warranty under the Food and Drugs Act.

(6) That the use of the term "arsenical" did not necessarily imply the presence of arsenic in the soap, but only that the soap possessed the beneficial properties popularly ascribed to arsenic. If the soap contained arsenic the proper description of it would, Mr. Germaine argued, be "arsenious soap"—"arsenious" meaning "containing arsenic," whereas "arsenical" merely meant "possessing the properties of arsenic."

The Bench overruled all these objections, and fined defendant 5s. and costs. In this case also leave was given to appeal.

Messrs. T. F. Bristow & Co. wish us to state that they have always put arsenic in their arsenical soap, but the quantity has been reduced to avoid the Pharmacy Act. We have reason to believe, too, that in their case the appeal will not be prosecuted.

THE SHOP-HOURS ACT.

MR. JOHN EDMONDS, chemist and druggist, 2 High Street, Kingsland, was on Wednesday summoned before Mr.

Dickinson at North London Police Court for employing two of his assistants longer than allowed by the Shop-hours Act. Mr. Collman, who prosecuted for the London County Council, said there were two summonses, in respect of two assistants, who had been employed eighty-five hours in one week instead of seventy-four as prescribed by law.

Leonard Heasman, aged 17, said he was in the employ of the defendant. On the week ending November 14 he commenced work each day about 8.30, and finished about 9.30 each night except Saturday, when the hour was 12.30.

In reply to Mr. Windsor, who defended, the witness said he was articled to Mr. Edmonds, and had paid a heavy premium. He was studying for a pharmaceutical examination, and hoped to be a chemist himself one day. He was well treated by Mr. Edmonds, dined at the same table, and was allowed a good deal of freedom in coming and going. When speaking of the total number of hours worked he made allowances for the times he had gone out, because he very rarely went out, except to the post-office. He was not particularly studious, and, therefore, did not take up a lot of time with his studies. Prescriptions were required to be made up at all times of the day and night.

By the Magistrate: Am very well treated by Mr. Edmonds, who goes almost out of his way to study our comfort. Do not very often go out, because I have no desire to. My colleague (Mr. Palmer) goes out more frequently. Can go to my bedroom if I have a desire to during business hours, but of course not too frequently. I have nothing to complain of in my treatment by Mr. Edmonds.

Ernest Palmer, another apprentice, 17 years of age, gave similar evidence.

Mr. Windsor, in defence, said no doubt these young men came within the definition of "young persons"; but the question was whether there was not an exemption in the case. There were not shop-boys; they were young gentlemen studying for their examination, and lived with the family.

Mr. Dickinson said he would have to decide against Mr. Windsor in that respect.

Mr. Windsor: Then on the merits of the case I will submit that the hard-and-fast line should not be drawn with chemists' assistants, who are not hardy workers, and are given an amount of freedom which ordinary assistants do not enjoy.

Mr. Dickinson: But there is the fact that they worked eighty-five hours instead of seventy-four hours. Now that your client is before the Court, and has had this intimation, no doubt he will make some arrangement to give them a half-holiday on a Saturday, or some other day. Of course the chemist's business is different to other people's. The defendant appears to have been kind to his assistants, and to have gone out of his way to study their convenience. But there should be a rule to keep within the regulation hours. It is true that there is no Sunday trading at the shop, but there is no doubt these young men have been kept too long at their work. I will allow these summonses to be withdrawn on the payment of 6s. costs in each case; and I hope that the defendant will see that some arrangement is made that these young men shall in the future be not kept so long at their work.

Mr. Edmonds: They have from Saturday night to Monday morning entirely to themselves.

THE YORKSHIRE RELISH CASE.

In the Court of Appeal, on Wednesday, Mr. Buckley, Q.C., appeared in support of an appeal by the defendants in the case of Powell (trading as Godall, Backhouse & Co.) v. the Birmingham Vinegar Brewery Company, from a decision of Mr. Justice Stirling, dated November 10, 1896.

The plaintiff had obtained an injunction against the defendants in respect of the sale of Yorkshire Relish, and an account was directed of sales and profits. Under that order the plaintiffs claimed a written list of the names and addresses of the defendants' customers. The defendants had given notice of appeal to the House of Lords, on the main question, and they applied for leave to stay proceedings, pending that appeal, but leave was refused, and the account was now going on in the ordinary way. Plaintiff was entitled, under the order, to inspect defendants' books, and they were quite ready to allow that.

Lord Justice Smith asked if the plaintiff was not entitled to take a list of the customers from the books when he inspected them.

Mr. Buckley submitted not. If such a list was to remain in plaintiff's possession it might be used for other purposes than that of the account.

Mr. Graham Hastings, Q.C., who appeared on the other side, said he was willing to repeat the assurance previously given that the plaintiff had no intention of attacking the defendants' customers.

Their Lordships dismissed the appeal with costs.

Bankruptcies and Failures.

Re ALFRED WAITS, Lower Halling, near Rochester, Kent, Druggist.

THIS debtor appeared for his adjourned public examination at the Rochester Bankruptcy Court on November 30. The liabilities amount to 381*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, and the assets are valued at 11*l.* Debtor stated that he commenced business with a capital of 100*l.* in 1888. Half of his capital he received from his wife, who was now managing the business for the person to whom it had been assigned. The examination was closed.

Re FREDERICK WM. KENRICK, lately carrying on business at Horncastle and now residing at 102 Carysfort Road, Stoke Newington, Chemist and Druggist.

A RECEIVING order was made against the above at the Lincoln Bankruptcy Court on December 4, and debtor was adjudicated a bankrupt on his own application.

Re GEORGE HENRY NAYLOR, lately trading as Naylor, Smith & Co., Bankhall, Liverpool, Manufacturing Chemist.

THIS debtor appeared for his public examination at the Liverpool Bankruptcy Court on December 3, with unsecured debts 3,129*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.*, and assets 1,817*l.* 10*s.*, including surplus on securities. Up to the end of 1893 he was a tailors' trimmings merchant in Manchester, but on May, 1895, having 1388*l.*, he answered an advertisement for a partner with 1,000*l.* A Mr. W. Horatio Smith waited on him, and explained that he wanted plant, &c., to produce stearine and other marketable products from mucilage or cotton-seed foots—the residue of cottonseed crushing—by a process of his own invention. Smith produced good references, and gave a written description of his process and calculations of results which satisfied him that it was a good thing. He therefore agreed to find the 1,000*l.*, Smith to receive 4*l.* a week until he (the debtor) had been repaid the cost of the plant out of profits, and then Smith was to have a fourth interest. They took premises in Syren Street, Bankhall, which Smith proceeded to fit up. The expenses soon exceeded the limits named, and they had to run into debt. They did not begin producing until December, 1895, and after that there were several breakdowns, and ultimately they had to give up altogether, after exhausting all means of raising additional capital. They had made about two and a half tons of stearine, and some oil. The whole of the output, he should think, would be worth over 100*l.* He had not interfered with Smith beyond complaining that he was spending far more than the sum agreed upon. It was stated that the trustee was having the books written up, and an adjournment was taken to January 7.

Re JOHN ALONZO GRIFFITS, lately trading as Chemist at Bideford and Torrington.

AT Barnstaple Bankruptcy Court, on December 8, this debtor passed his adjourned public examination. From the previous examination it transpired that the debtor's failure was entirely due to having to repay trust-money which, it was alleged, had been misappropriated by a co-trustee. The Official Receiver said a cash-account had been filed by the debtor, who was anxious to help all he could in the matter. Debtor stated that he was unable to file a profit and

loss account because there were no books. Mr. C. Downing, a great friend of his wife's, had advanced him 300*l.* for the Bideford business, but had never asked for the money. He was now in Queensland. The Registrar said it seemed to him that the debtor had been trading honestly and properly, and had disclosed the whole of his affairs and answered all the questions very straightforwardly. As far as he could see, but for having to meet a judgment for trust-money misappropriated by another, he would have been able to save money. He was sorry that such circumstances had brought him there.

[Mr. Griffiths has informed us that there were a few inaccuracies in our previous report of his affairs. His Woodstock business was sold in 1890, not in 1885; and the Torrington business was opened in 1892, not in 1891. The interest in his father's will was acquired in 1875, not in 1893.]

Deeds of Arrangement.

Wellington, James, High Street, Oakham, chemist and druggist. Dated, November 27; filed, December 2. Secured creditors, 167*l.* 6*s.* 2*d.*; liabilities unsecured, 2,318*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.*; estimated net assets, 1,700*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* Composition of 10*s.* in the pound, payable by four equal instalments, at three, six, nine, and twelve months from November 10, 1896. The last two payments secured by a surety. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Burringer, J., & Sons, London..	20	0	0
Brundell, Spence & Co. (Limited), Hull	39	0	0
Browning & Co., London	59	0	0
Cooper, W., & Nephews, Berkhamsted	18	0	0
Cox Brothers & Co., Derby	19	0	0
Cresswell Brothers & Schmitz, London	18	0	0
Crosse & Blackwell (Limited), London	14	0	0
Edwards & Son, London	443	0	0
Everett & Co., London	13	0	0
Fletcher Brothers & Co., Grimsby	54	0	0
Gibbs, D. & W. (Limited), London	10	0	0
Great Tower Street Tea Company, London	42	0	0
Hodgkinson, Treacher & Clarke, London	26	0	0
Hurst & Son, London	83	0	0
Lofthouse & Saltmer, Hull	18	0	0
Maw, S., Son & Thompson, London	39	0	0
Mills & Co., Bourne	341	0	0
Oakham Gas Company (Limited), Oakham	17	0	0
Painter, J., London	115	0	0
Quibell Brothers, Newark-on-Trent	12	0	0
Rigby, Battock & Co., London	11	0	0
Royce, D. N., Oakham	153	0	0
Smith & Co., London	13	0	0
Sonthall Brothers & Barclay, Birmingham	22	0	0
Tomlinson & Hayward, Lincoln	14	0	0
Turner, C., & Son, London	16	0	0
Wellington, Miss S. E., Castletown	40	0	0
Wellington, Mrs. E. S., Oakham	179	0	0
Bankers' claims	307	0	0

Thompson, George, 60 Senhouse Street, Workington, and 65 Circular Road, Douglas, Isle of Man, mineral-water manufacturer. Trustee, Christopher H. Walker, Victoria Chambers, William Street, Workington, estate agent, &c. Dated, November 28; filed, December 2. Secured creditors, 50*l.*; liabilities unsecured, 446*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*; estimated net assets, 551*l.* 14*s.* The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Barron, T. (Limited), Mexborough	14	0	0
Bratby & Hinchliffe (Limited), Manchester	129	0	0
Barrows, W. B., Workington	14	0	0
Clayton & Jowett, Liverpool	20	0	0
Field, M., & Sons, Bradford	27	0	0
Hays (Limited), Hull	11	0	0
Landlord (rent)	23	0	0
Manchester Chemical Co. (Limited), Manchester	19	0	0
Metcalf, T. K. & W., Whitehaven	42	0	0
Rylands, Dan. (Limited), Barnsley	29	0	0
Turner, Thomas (Limited), Dewsbury	37	0	0
Vallet, L., Liverpool	21	0	0
Whitfield, J., Workington	38	0	0
Wilson & Kitchen, Whitehaven	13	0	0

Wainhouse, Thomas, trading as T. Wainhouse & Co., 45A Market Street and 2J New Cannon Street, Manchester, and residing at East

View, Aoseneth Road, Urmston, near Manchester, chemical merchant. Trustee, Joseph H. Bayley, 3 Clarence Street, Manchester, chartered accountant. Dated, November 28; filed, December 4. Liabilities unsecured, 3,315*l.* 9*s.* 11*d.*; estimated net assets, 2,934*l.* 15*s.* 11*d.*. The following are scheduled as creditors:—

	£	s.	d.
Bertha Consols (Limited), London	1,990	0	0
Buckley, J. (Trustees of), Manchester	20	0	0
Carriage Accounts (various Railway Companies)	40	0	0
Dobell, G. O. & Co., Liverpool	132	0	0
Haddock, Parker & Co., Liverpool	12	0	0
Harrison, Blair & Co. (Limited), Bolton	95	0	0
Mason, Mrs. G. H., Didsbury	21	0	0
Pollitt, T., Bradford	11	0	0
Shelfield Smelting Company (Limited), Sheffield	345	0	0
Sheldon, Bush & P. S. Co., Bristol	398	0	0
Wainhouse, Mrs. M.	150	0	0
Walker, Parker & Co. (Limited), Chester	69	0	0
Wilson, R. H., Yarm	14	0	0

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PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

- Buckley, H., and Dobson, B. B., under the style of H. Lophardt & Co., Huddersfield, drysaiters.
 Emmerson, H., and Emmerson, E., under the style of H. Emmerson & Sons, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, aerated-water manufacturers, wine merchants.
 Goodman, L. H., and Goodman, V. A., under the style of Mr. Goodman, Ludgate Hill, E.C., and elsewhere, surgeon-dentists.
 Millington, H. E., and Croxon, J., under the style of the Eastbourne Aerated-water Company, Eastbourne, aerated-water manufacturers.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS, 1883 AND 1890.

ADJUDICATIONS.

- Fraser, James Johnson, Leicester, veterinary surgeon.
 Kenrick, Frederick William, late Horncastle, now Carysfort Road, Clissold Park, Stoke Newington, N., late chemist.
 Kerr, William Henry, Deronda Road, Herne Hill, S.E., late New Bond Street, W., chemist.

ORDER MADE ON APPLICATION FOR DISCHARGE.

- Pearse, George Edgar Hope, late Chipstead, Surrey, Fenchurch Street and Eastcheap, E.C., late manager to the Exporters' Agency (Limited), Fenchurch Street, E.C., and carrying on business as a manager to C. J. Fox & Co. (Limited), Eastcheap, E.C.—discharge suspended for three years, ending July 17, 1899.

Business Changes.

Notices of changes in the retail trade, and opening of new businesses, are inserted in this section, free of charge, if properly authenticated.

MR. THOMAS WHITE has removed from 185 Stanley Road, Liverpool, to more commodious premises, No. 165.

MR. J. GILBERT JACKSON (from Symes & Co., Limited, Liverpool), has commenced business at 338 Abbeydale Road, Sheffield.

MR. JULIUS CARSON, of Southampton, has taken over the business of Mr. E. R. Marsh, Chippinham Road, Maida Vale, W.

MR. A. J. FERRIDAY has purchased the business recently carried on by the Walton Drug Company, County Road, Liverpool.

THE business of Messrs. Walton & Co., chemists and druggists, Darlington, has been removed to more suitable premises at 77 Parkgate.

MR. FREDERICK DAVIS, analyst, of the Newington College of Chemistry and Pharmacy, has removed, to 51 Imperial Buildings, Ludgate Circus.

THE chemist's, druggist's and wine and spirit merchant's business carried on at Northallerton by the late Mr. H. Warrior, whose death was recently recorded, has been acquired from the executors by Messrs. Ayre.

THE Hull Drug Company, whose premises at Scarborough were recently destroyed by fire, have opened temporary business premises at 87 West Borough, where the stock rescued from the fire is being disposed of by a special sale.

THE business of Messrs. Macpherson & Co., chemists, stationers, &c., established at Stornoway for upwards of half a century, has been purchased by Mr. Samuel Lawrence, chemist, Oban and Stornoway, and Mr. Hugh Macdonald, stationer, Oban, who are converting it into a company, to be carried on under the name of Macpherson & Co. (Limited).

FOR some weeks rumours have been current in wholesale drug circles that Mr. Francis Yates, the senior partner in Davy, Yates & Hicks, contemplated retirement from business. That retirement is now announced publicly in a circular dated "64 Park Street, Southwark, S.E., December 3," and signed by the firm. It takes effect from January 1. What has come as a surprise upon the trade generally, however, is that, on the same date, the business of Messrs. Davy, Yates & Hicks will be amalgamated with that of Messrs. A. S. Hill & Son, of 101 and 103 Southwark Street, and will thenceforth be carried on at the last named address under the style of Davy, Hill & Son, Yates & Hicks.

The amalgamated firm will consist of four partners—Mr. Arthur Bowdler Hill (the present sole partner in A. S. Hill & Son), Mr. Robert Yates, Mr. Alan Hicks, and Mr. Charles Alexander Hill, F.C.S., A.I.C., second son of Mr. A. B. Hill.

Both firms are among the oldest in the London wholesale trade, and are among the dozen or so (including Herrings & Co.; Wright, Layman & Umney; Hearon, Squire & Francis; Burgoine, Burbidges & Co.; Hodgkinsons, Treacher & Clarke; Horner & Sons; Evans, Lecher & Webb; Barron, Harveys & Co.; Corbyn, Stacey & Co.; Allen & Hanburys; and Hodgkinson, Prestons & King) who can trace a descent extending to over a century. Here are the genealogical trees of both firms, the dates being unfortunately missing for a few items:—

1755. Dalmahoy, chemist, 12 Ludgate Hill	Prior to 1760. Taylor, Davy & Co., 52 Little Britain
1780. William Stock, chemist, 12 and 22 Ludgate Hill	Davy, Roberts, Son & Minion, Gould Square
1812. White & Cantherley, 22 Ludgate Hill	Davy, Son & Drew, Old Swan Lane
1826. White, Cantherley & Hill, Little Britain (Arthur Stephen Hill)	Davy, Macmurdo & Pitchford, Old Swan Lane
1838. A. S. Hill, Little Britain	1840. Davy, Macmurdo & Co., Old Swan Lane
1849. A. S. Hill & Son, Little Britain (A. S. Hill and Arthur Bowdler Hill)	1870. Davy, Yates & Routledge, Park Street, Southwark
1872. A. S. Hill & Son, Southwark Street (A. S. Hill retired)	1894. Davy, Yates & Hicks
1885. A. S. Hill & Son, Southwark Street (A. B. Hill and A. C. Hill)	
1893. A. S. Hill & Son (A. S. Hill retired)	
	1897. Davy, Hill & Son, Yates & Hicks (A. B. Hill, Robert Yates, Alan Hicks, C. A. Hill)

A SALE of Mr. Ernest Hart's collection of Chinese and Japanese porcelain, bronzes, &c., has been proceeding since Monday. It is stated as a reason for the sale that Mr. Hart is removing from his town house, 16 Wimpole Street. The sale up to Wednesday evening had realised about 2,280*l.*

M. FRANÇOIS CARNOT, the third son of the late President and M^{de}. Carnot, is about to marry M^{lle}. Valentine Chiris, daughter of M. Antoine Chiris, the wealthy manufacturer of essential oils and senator for the Alpes Maritimes. Her elder sister became the wife two years ago of M. Ernest Carnot, the future bridegroom's brother. M. François Carnot, a civil engineer by profession, is at this moment serving his time in the artillery of the reserve.

New Companies and Company News.

ESCO BEEF-JUICE COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 15,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of manufacturers of and dealers in "Esco" beef-juice and "Esco" tomato-relish now carried on by George Edwards and Charter Holden at Warwick Road, Acocks Green, and Bristol Street, both in Birmingham.

THE INDIAN QUEEN'S OXIDE AND COLOUR COMPANY—Registered in Scotland. Capital 6,000*l.*, in 4,000 deferred, and 2,000 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each. Established to carry into effect an agreement made with Edmund Gilbert Hamley, solicitor, Bodmin, Cornwall; Alexander Tennant Forgil, C.A., Glasgow; Wm. Ross Hutton, chemist, Glasgow; and Robert Clement Boyd, writer, Glasgow.

DOG-TABLET SYNDICATE (LIMITED).—Capital 3,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire the business of a manufacturer, proprietor, and vendor of a registered medicament called "Anti-Rabies Dog tablets," now carried on by Alfred R. McKill, at Hunslet, Leeds, and to carry on the business of patent-medicine proprietors, manufacturers and vendors. Registered office, Whitehouse Street, Hunslet, Leeds.

EURISSA (LIMITED).—Capital 1,000*l.*, in 5*l.* shares. Objects: To enter into an agreement dated November 16, and made between Thomas Chamings of the one part, and Henry W. Michelmores of the other part, to manufacture an extract of the germ of wheat and to carry on the business of bakers, confectioners, millers, maltsters, manufacturing chemists, and invalid-food manufacturers.

WILLIAMS & CO., PRESCOT (LIMITED).—Capital 500*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and carry on the business of chemists, druggists, Italian warehousemen and wine and spirit merchants, formerly carried on at 1 Market Place, Prescott, Lancashire, by Ada J. Williams, under the style of Williams & Co. The first subscribers (each with one share) are:—William Lloyd, Llanerchymedd, Anglesey, farmer; Robert D. Lloyd, Llanerchymedd, Anglesey, engineer; William R. Lloyd, 90 Littledale Road, Seacombe, manager; Arthur Slee, 3 Rudgrave Place, Egremont, Cheshire, clerk; Mrs. Wm. R. Lloyd, 90 Littledale Road Seacombe; David R. Lloyd, 90 Littledale Road, Seacombe, clerk; John E. Lloyd, Woodbank, Formby, broker; Mrs. Arthur Slee, 3 Rudgrave Place, Egremont. Registered without articles of association.

ANGLO-HUNGARIAN SEED CRUSHING COMPANY (LIMITED)—Capital, 50,000*l.*, divided into 49,500 ordinary shares of 1*l.* each, and 100 founders' shares of 5*l.* each. Objects: To acquire concessions from the Austro-Hungarian Government for a free grant of land for the erection thereon of seed-crushing mills in those countries, together with the exemption of taxes, dues, stamps, importation free of duty, and reduced rates for oil and seed for transport on state railways, to enter into an agreement with Louis Hoffmann, and to carry on the business of seed-crushers and oil merchants. Registered office, Monument House, Monument Square, London, E.C.

ACETYLENE GAS LIGHTING DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE (LIMITED)—Capital 1,200*l.*, in 10*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire any patents relating to the manufacture of chemicals used in the production of acetylene gas and carburetted hydrogen, to acquire the benefit of an agreement with Professor Vivian B. Lewes and to manufacture, sell and deal in pharmaceutical, medicinal, industrial and other preparations, compounds and drugs. Registered without articles of association.

MAYPOLE COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 200,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (of which 50,000 are 7*l.* per cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To carry into effect an agreement made between the Maypole Soap Syndicate (Limited) of the first part, the American and Foreign Maypole Soap Syndicate (Limited) of the second part, and H. Griffin (for this company) of the third part, and to carry on the business of soap manufacturers, &c. The first directors are to be nominated by the subscribers. Qualification, 250*l.* Remuneration, 1,000*l.* per annum, and a

percentage of the profits, divided between them. Registered office, 93 and 99 High Holborn, E.C.

WILKINSON, HEYWOOD & CLARK (LIMITED).—Capital 250,000*l.*, in 10*l.* shares (of which 15,000 are 5 per cent. cumulative preference). Objects: To acquire the businesses of varnish, japan, colour, paint, and oil manufacturers and merchants, carried on by John S. C. Heywood, and Alfred A. Clark, at 7 Caledonian Road, King's Cross, N., West Drayton, Middlesex, Bombay, Melbourne, and at Hong Kong, as "Wilkinson, Heywood & Clark." at Liverpool as "Heywood, Clark & Co." and at Storer's Wharf, Poplar, E., as "David Storer & Sons." The first directors (to number not fewer than two nor more than seven) are:—John S. C. Heywood, Alfred A. Clark, Alfred M. Clark, James G. Heywood, and David Storer. Qualification, 5,000*l.* Remuneration not less than 100*l.* each per annum.

ESSENTIAL OILS COMPANY (LIMITED).—Claims on this company, which is in course of voluntary liquidation, should be sent to A. B. Haxell, 45 and 46 Leadenhall Street, liquidator, by February 15.

G. KYNOCH & CO. (LIMITED).—This firm of ammunition-makers will start, early in the coming year, new glycerine, candle, and soap works at Witton. Mr. Samuel Pope, lately manager of one of the works of the United Alkali Company (Limited), has been appointed manager.

DAN RYLANDS (LIMITED).—The report of the directors of this company for the past year shows a profit of 3,760*l.*, after providing for interest on debentures, &c., and other special costs of the year. This will wipe out the previous losses, and leave a balance of 415*l.*, which the directors propose to carry forward.

BASELESS RUMOURS.—The *Daily Mail* announced a few days ago that the vinolia business would be offered as a public company very shortly. Messrs. Bloudeau & Cie. authorise us to say that the statement is absolutely false and without a particle of foundation.—A financial journal has stated that the financial group who have been negotiating for the purchase of Carter's pills are also proposing to take over Eno's fruit salt. This, Mr. Eno informs us, is likewise incorrect.

Personalities.

DR. H. C. LOVIS, a nephew of Mr. George J. Seabury, has succeeded the late Mr. A. H. Mason as Secretary of the Corporation of Seabury & Johnson, New York.

MR. W. J. S. MILLER, B.A., Registrar of the General Medical Council, has been granted leave of absence for three months in consequence of an attack of paralysis. Mr. Allen has been authorised to perform the duties of registrar in the meantime.

At a meeting of the "Worcester" Lodge of Freemasons, No. 280, held on December 2, to celebrate St. John's Day, Brother J. A. Steward, chemist, was appointed Senior Warden for the ensuing year; and Brother W. H. Maxey, of the firm of George & Welch, chemists, Junior Warden.

DR. EDWARD R. SQUIBB, the well-known chemist of Brooklyn, N.Y., had his left hand amputated last month. Nearly thirty years ago Dr. Squibb was the victim of an ether explosion by which he nearly lost his life, and which left visible marks upon him. His left hand never got thoroughly well, and it has been deemed necessary to amputate it in order to prevent blood-poisoning.

THE proposed pension of 100*l.* a year to Mr. Charles Ledger "for distinguished services rendered by him to the cinchona industry" has been agreed to by the Second Chamber of the States General of Holland *nem. con.* Some time ago the Dutch Ministry of the Colonies refused to propose a pension, but the head of that Department, Mr. Bergsma has now satisfied himself of the justice of Mr. Ledger's claim and has made provision for the money in the Supplementary Estimates for 1897. A Recording Angel somewhere, we make bold to say, will put the matter down to the credit of the *C. & D.*

Trade Reports.

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., December 10.

THERE has been very little business in the drug-market since our last report, and the changes are comparatively few. To-day's drug sales were rather slight, the fourteen catalogues, excluding 220 lots of vanilla, comprising only 1,069 lots, of which the small proportion of 241 changed hands at auction. The principal alterations are the advance in Socotrine aloes, and a slight decline in Cape aloes. Curaçoa albes also sold cheaply. Araroba is now plentiful and tending easier. Sumatra benzoin neglected and easier for all varieties. Balsam tolu easier, and copal much higher for good qualities. Buchu-leaves neglected. Cardamoms offering more freely, and from 2*d.* to 6*d.* per lb. lower. Wild cardamoms, however, sold at a considerable advance. Calumba rather easier for natural. Colocynth also lower. Ordinary cascarilla sold at higher rates. Cod-liver oil cheaper. Olive oil is likely to be dearer. Fine sarsaparilla firmly held. Gentian-root continues to realise a high price, and for ergot of rye more money was asked. Gums mostly neglected, but a large business has been done at firm prices in asafetida. Honey firmly held. Ipecacuanha about 2*d.* lower for common varieties. Insect-flowers tending higher. Kamala sold cheaply. Gum mastic also lower. Myrrh neglected. Menthol firmly held, and musk is said to be considerably higher privately. In essential oils there are few changes. Oil of lemon, however, looks like being cheaper. Castor oil very firmly held. Orris-root easier. In opium a fine business has been done. Rhubarb slow of sale. Jamaica sarsaparilla 1*d.* lower. Scammony dearer, both for root and resin. Tinnevely senna sold at slightly lower rates. Beeswax firmly held, and Japanese was slightly easier. In chemicals some alteration appears to be impending in bismuth salts. Cream of tartar about 2*s.* dearer. Quicksilver a trifle easier, and quinine offering at slightly lower rates in second hand. In drysalteries, &c., we have to report a slight decline in shellac, lower prices for Chinese and higher for green Persian galls. Turmeric firmly held. Spices are mostly dull or easier, with the exception of Jamaica ginger.

Mr. Thomas J. Barratt, of A. & F. Pears (Lim.), writes:—"I observe in the Trade Report, in your issue of December 5, under the head of 'Sancalwood Oil,' that you make a distinction between 'Soapmakers' and 'Oil-distillers' product. We believe that ours is the only 'Soapmakers' distillation in the market, and every drop of that is absolutely pure, and consequently entirely reliable for medical or any other purposes. Your distinction, therefore, is a timely indication to all interested that the same claim cannot be urged by all *Oil Distillers*. The reflection, however, is your own, and not ours; but it is certainly sometimes justifiable."

While one of the drug-brokers was proceeding with his sale to-day Mr. Lyon, of the firm of Lyon & Mayer, interrupted the proceedings, to complain that at the last sale he had bought two cases of Fisher's lemon oil at 4*d.* per lb., conditional upon that figure being sufficient to defray the charges. He had called upon the broker [the same gentleman who was now selling] about a dozen times, but could not receive a statement of the charges. Thereupon he sent a demand for a contract, which was not acknowledged in any way. He now wanted to know what was the meaning of "sale without reserve." It was a small matter, so far as money went; but he objected to the principle. Up to that time he had not

received any statement of the charges, but had simply been told that the price was now 8*d.* instead of 4*d.*, and that the sale was therefore "off." The broker made a reply to the effect that he would see the gentleman "privately," and the matter dropped.

Our New York correspondent telegraphs on Thursday afternoon that Tonca beans are scarce for all varieties. Good Pará beans are quoted at 50c. per lb. Tolu balsam and Peru balsam are weak at 50c. and \$1.80c., respectively, per lb. Sassafras-root scarce and dearer, from 8c. to 9c. per lb. being the quotation. New season's damiana-leaves offered at 8c. per lb. Newfoundland cod-liver oil cheaper, in sympathy with the lower prices of Norwegian. Blood-root scarcer, and held for as much as 18c. per lb. The price of chlorate of potash has been advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ c. per lb.

Our Amsterdam correspondent, telegraphing on Thursday night, states that at to-day's auctions 6,630 packages of Java bark sold at an average unit of 2.25c. per half-Cinchona kilo., compared with 2.17c. at the November Sales. The English and American manufacturers purchased the equivalent of 7,134 kilos.; the Auerbach factory 885, Brunswick 5,786, Mannheim and Amsterdam 7,995, Frankfurt-on-Maine and Stuttgart 2,991, and various buyers 6,471 kilos. of quinine. The prices ranged from 6s. to 27½s. (equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ l. to 5*d.* per lb.) for *Manufacturing* bark, and from 4s. to 156s. (equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ l. to 2*s.* 4*d.* per lb.) for *Druggists' barks*.

ALOE.—*Socotrine*: The statement made in our last issue to the effect that the entire supply in first hand had been bought up has been confirmed. What was offered to-day consisted only of second-hand parcels. The improved position of *Socotrine aloes* was shown at the drug-auctions, when of 24 packages offered 11 sold readily at the high price of 90s. per cwt. for good bright hard; and 18s. for very ordinary black. For a parcel of good quality a bid of 60s. was refused, the owner saying that he could offer 80s. himself. *Cape aloes* is fully 6*d.* lower, but the bulk of 66 packages offered to-day was bought in, including all the good aloes, at 21*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.; comparatively dull and drossy sold at from 19s. down to 17s. per cwt. Of 20 cases *Curaçao aloes* 5 sold cheaply at 35s. per cwt. for good bright brown.

ARAROA.—A parcel, of which samples were privately shown the other day, was offered at to-day's auctions. It consisted of 9 cases by the *Thames* from Bahia. The quality of the consignment fell very far short indeed of that of the samples. There was none of the beautiful yellow araroba represented in the latter. The whole of this parcel was bought in at 6s. per lb., a bid of 2*s.* being rejected. Another lot of about 500 lbs. (7 cases) grey, slightly woody, mixed powder, was bought in at 5*s.* per lb. Privately, it is said that from 5*s.* to 6*s.* per lb. is still required for good quality.

ASAFETIDA.—At auction 43 cases were offered and all bought in: ordinary heavy gray slightly pinky mixed block at from 52s. to 60s.; fair ditto at 70s.; good bright loose slightly blocky and pale mixed at 110s. to 120s., these latter prices being considerably above present market values. Privately there have been fair sales this week at from 60s. to 75s. per cwt. for good fair part heavy to good almondy block.

BALSAMS.—*Tolu* is on the downward path; the quotation for arrival is now 2*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f. for genuine quality, but a further decline is looked for, as the supplies in New York are accumulating. On the spot genuine balsam is offered at 2*s.* 9*d.* per lb. At auction 13 cases good *Tolu* were shown; a bid of 2*s.* 5*d.* per lb. was rejected for them. Balsam *copaiba* is held for much higher rates, and it is said that almost the whole of the first-hand supply has been bought up. At auction to-day 2 cases good bright *Maranhão* were offered. This quality up to the present has been held for about 2*s.* 1*d.*; to-day the broker said solemnly, with a long face, that 2*s.* 9*d.* per lb. was the lowest price. Eight cases thin liquid

yellow and red balsam, "filtered abroad," were bought in at 2*rs.* 3*d.* per lb.

BENZON.—*Siam* was represented by 17 packages; of which 12 grain and siftings in hard dark block sold privately. Fine pale small and medium almonds and grain were bought in at 20*l.* per cwt.; another similar lot at 17*l.* per cwt. Of *Sumatra* benzoins 238 packages were offered. The quality was generally common, and for this variety there is no demand. A parcel of good seconds, pale almondy centres, slightly false packed, fine aroma, sold at 7*l.* 15*s.* to 7*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.*; and a fair lot, rather more false packed, at 6*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 6*l.* 10*s.* Of *Palembang* gum 133 packages were shown, but there being no demand the whole was bought in.

BISMUTH.—A "bismuth-ting," composed of five English manufacturers of bismuth salts, attracted much attention on 'Change to-day. Its members were engaged in earnest conversation for a long time, but they were chary in communicating the result of their deliberations. It is understood, however, that their conversations had reference to the best means of meeting the underselling on the part of certain German manufacturers, which has been a source of considerable annoyance to the English makers for some time, and that a small change in prices was decided upon, particulars of which will probably be announced soon.

BUCHU.—Tending a trifle easier. The 9 packages shown to-day, however, were all of poor quality; round very broken and yellowish leaves were sold at 2½*d.* to 2¾*d.* per lb. Another lot of 19 bales rather yellowish leaves was bought in at 2½*d.* to 2¾*d.* per lb.

CALUMBA remains very scarce. A small arrival of 61 bags has come to hand by the *Caledonia* from Bombay. In sale 93 bags were all bought in, high prices being asked all round—viz, from 22*s.* 6*d.* to 27*s.* 6*d.* for ordinary dull brown to fair natural root.

CAMPHOR (CRUDE)—The week opened quiet, but it is said that a considerable business in *Japan* camphor has taken place for direct shipment to the States, about 1,000 piculs having found buyers in that position at the parity of 117*s.* 6*d.* c.i.f. terms. We hear to-day of a sale of 200 piculs *Formosa* at 103*s.* 6*d.* to 105*s.* per cwt., c.i.f., showing a decline up to 1*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., and 102*s.* 6*d.*, c.i.f., would now be accepted.

CANTHARIDES—There has been some demand lately for *Chinese* flies, which are now no longer obtainable below 1*s.* per lb. for fair quality. At to-day's sales, however, 7 cases fair *Chinese* flies were offered, and bought in at 1*s.* per lb.

CARDAMOMS.—The shipments of cardamoms from Ceylon between January 1 and November 17, 1895, have been 335,024 lbs., of which 157,055 lbs. went to India, 117,371 lbs. to the United Kingdom, 52,144 lbs. to Germany, and the remainder to various other countries. The article was in fairly considerable supply at to-day's auctions, 127 packages being offered, which, however, mostly consisted of ordinary brown *Ceylon-Malabar* variety. These offerings included the bulk of 35 cases which have arrived this week from Colombo by the *Clan Chisholm*, and 39 cases ex *Dardanos*, also from Colombo. The bulk of this supply, however, was rather firmly held, and although prices showed a decline all round, little disposition was shown to meet the market, especially so far as the new arrivals were concerned, which were all bought in. The lots sold marked an irregular decline of from 3*d.* to 6*d.* per lb. Medium to bold, round, bright yellowish *Ceylon-Mysore* realised 4*s.* 6*d.* to 4*s.* 8*d.*; medium ditto, 4*s.* 4*d.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*; small pale, 4*s.*; very small, 3*s.* 8*d.*; small to medium rather dull yellow, 3*s.* 5*d.*; brownish and split, 3*s.* 3*d.* to 3*s.* 4*d.*; ordinary dull brown, 3*s.* 2*d.* down to 3*s.* per lb. For dull, rather shelly, brown *Ceylon-Malabar*, 2*s.* 7*d.* was paid. A parcel of 12 packages, partly mouldy, rather small wild *Ceylon* cardamoms sold at from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 3*s.* 10*d.* per lb.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—Steady, at low prices. A parcel of 57 bales rather dark mixed bark was bought in to-day at 16*s.* per cwt. It was the only lot in sale, and it was said that privately business has been done at that figure.

CASCARILLA.—The only kind offered to-day was a parcel of 44 bales of poor quality, small brown woody shavings.

These sold at 30*s.* to 31*s.* for sound, and 27*s.* per cwt. (subject) for damaged quality. Siftings realised 20*s.* per cwt. These figures show an advance of 3*s.* to 4*s.* per cwt.

CASTORUM.—The usual December auctions of castor oil were held on Wednesday, when 1,461 lbs. were offered under the auspices of the Hudson Bay Company, and sold with good competition at an advance (compared with the last December sales), ranging from 5*s.* on the better grades up to 8*s.* and 10*s.* per lb. on medium grades. Very good bold dry firsts sold at 6*s.* to 6*s.* 7*d.*, fair to fine firsts and seconds mixed at 49*s.* to 59*s.*, common firsts (Canada) at 56*s.*, good seconds 49*s.*, thirds 38*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.*, wet and mouldy ditto 34*s.*, pickings at from 37*s.* 6*d.* to 43*s.* per lb. The following table gives the result of the last four December auctions:—

	1893 December	1894 December 12	1895 December 11	1895 December 10
Firsts ..	140 <i>s.</i>	85 <i>s.</i> to 67 <i>s.</i>	53 <i>s.</i> to 57 <i>s.</i>	56 <i>s.</i> to 67 <i>s.</i>
Seconds ..	130 <i>s.</i> to 134 <i>s.</i>	61 <i>s.</i> „ 87 <i>s.</i>	41 <i>s.</i> „ 51 <i>s.</i>	49 <i>s.</i> „ 59 <i>s.</i>
Thirds ..	105 <i>s.</i> „ 116 <i>s.</i>	37 <i>s.</i> „ 58 <i>s.</i>	19 <i>s.</i> „ 39 <i>s.</i>	34 <i>s.</i> „ 45 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i>
Pickings ..	51 <i>s.</i> „ 97 <i>s.</i>	33 <i>s.</i> „ 41 <i>s.</i>	27 <i>s.</i> „ 35 <i>s.</i>	37 <i>s.</i> 6 <i>d.</i> to 43 <i>s.</i>
Total offered	1,085 lbs.	1,166 lbs.	1,823 lbs.	1,461 lbs.
Average advance or decline per lb.	+15 <i>s.</i> to +20 <i>s.</i>	-20 <i>s.</i> to -40 <i>s.</i>	-6 <i>s.</i> to -76 <i>s.</i>	+5 <i>s.</i> to +10 <i>s.</i>

CINCHONA.—The monthly auctions were held on Tuesday, when six catalogues were offered, the total represented being 1,938 packages. The tone at the auctions was steady, but not particularly lively, and the average unit may be put down at ½*d.* per lb.

The following was the range of prices:—*East Indian* and *Ceylon* barks: yellow, 1½*d.* to 2½*d.*; grey, 1½*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb.; red, 1½*d.* to 1¾*d.* per lb. *Java* barks: yellow, 2½*d.* to 2¾*d.*; hybrid, 2½*d.* per lb. *African Succirubra*, 2½*d.* per lb. *S. American* damaged cultivated *Caliraya* quill, 2*d.* to 3½*d.* per lb. The feature of the sale was the offering of about 1,100 bales of old *S. American* barks, of which part sold at ½*d.* per lb. for *Cuprea*, 1*d.* to 1½*d.* per lb. for *Pitayo*, and 1*d.* to 1½*d.* per lb. for *Soft Colombian*. Most of the *Cuprea* bought in has since changed hands privately. The exports of cinchona from Ceylon between January 1 and November 17, 1895, amounted to 1,231,359 lbs. In the same period of 1895 they were £26,070 lbs.

COCA-LEAVES.—Quiet. Seventy-one bales of very thin broken coca-leaves, rather poor in colour, but of fair aroma, were taken out. Fine *Truxillo* are held for 10*d.* to 1*s.* per lb.

COLOCYNTH is in plentiful supply. To-day's sales included a parcel of 23 bags *Spanish* colocynth-pulp from Almeria. The few trial cases of this colocynth pulped abroad have apparently yielded such satisfactory results that large quantities are now coming to hand treated in the same fashion. For these 23 packages of good pale picked *Spanish* from 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* 6*d.* is asked, which shows a considerable decline on the last rates. There were no bids, however. A parcel of ordinary seedy *Spanish* is held for 1*s.* per lb. *Syrian* colocynth is neglected and tending easier, 27 cases fair clean apple were bought in to-day at from 2*s.* to 2*s.* 2*d.* per lb.

CREAM OF TARTAR has had a sudden turn upward. Last week Bordeaux quoted 71*s.* per cwt. f.o.b. for best white crystals, and this week offers at 73*s.* per cwt. in the same position were rejected. On the spot the quotation is now 81*s.* per cwt. for crystals and 82*s.* to 83*s.* for powder—an advance of from 2*s.* to 3*s.* per lb.

DRAGONS' BLOOD was poorly represented at the auctions, and did not include anything of fine quality. Two cases of very fine fiery lump, which have just arrived from Penang by the *Dardanos*, came in too late for to-day's auctions, and are, therefore, not to be offered in public sale until January 7. Eleven cases were offered and bought in at 7*l.* 10*s.* for fair seedy red lump, 6*l.* to 6*l.* 10*s.* for dull bricky saucers.

ERGOT OF RYE.—At auction 46 bags fair sound grey *Russian* ergot were bought in at 7*d.* per lb., and for 3 bags wormy *Spanish* 8*d.* is said to be the price.

GALANGAL is very scarce, and prices are only nominal at 22*s.* per cwt. At auction 2 bags were offered without

reserve, conditionally upon paying charges. No bid was made for them.

GALLS.—*Chinese* are offering at a decline of 1s. to 2s.; fair quality on the spot at 64s. to arrive, November-December at 58s. per cwt., c.i.f. *Persian* are very firm. The market has been cleared of green galls at 54s. 6d. per cwt. Blue galls, however, are difficult of sale at 48s. to 50s. for good quality, and white are neglected at 42s. 6d. per lb.

GAMBOGE.—Quite neglected; 21 cases were bought in to-day at from 8l. 10s. to 8l. 15s. nominally for fair partly soft and broken *Sinagpore* and *Saigon*, mixed quality.

GENTIAN-ROOT.—Very firm; the lowest price on the spot is 30s. to 31s. per cwt., and for arrival 28s. per cwt., c.i.f., has been paid.

GUM ACACIA.—*Sudan* sorts very quiet; fair to good hard quality has been sold privately at from 60s. to 69s. per cwt. Several lots of picked *Trieste* gum were bought in to-day, at from 7l. for fair small grain, up to 10l. 10s. for good pale

GUM AMMONIACUM.—A bid of 25s. per cwt. was rejected for 6 cases common block gum mixed with earth and seed.

HONEY.—In fair request at full prices. Of 65 cases fair *Honolulu* 44 sold at 25s. Twenty-eight cases ordinary *New Zealand* were bought in at 25s. Sixty cases dull grey candied *Californian* realised 28s., and for 4 barrels nice pale candied *Jamaica* 27s. per cwt. was paid.

INSECT-FLOWERS.—The stock in *Trieste* is said to have been reduced to 180 tons, and to be smaller now than it has been for many years. Prices are advancing there, and the firm tendency may react on the London market.

IPCACUANHA.—Of 52 bales *Brazilian* only 6 sold at from 5s. 4d. to 5s. 6d. per lb. for ordinary thin wiry. This shows a decline of about 2d. per lb. Fine qualities are held for steady prices, 6s. 6d. being named as the figure for fair picked. *Colombian* root is also slightly easier. One bag damaged *Carthage* is held for 4s. 1d. per lb.

KINO.—Quiet. The value of good genuine *Cochin* is from 9s. to 10s. per lb. At to-day's auction this drug was represented by one case of genuine *Cochin*, which was bought in at 10s. per lb.

MASTICH is about 1½d. cheaper, 3 cases very yellow drop selling at 1s. 1½d.; 11 cases of fair quality were bought in at 1s. 4d. to 1s. 5d.

MENTHOL.—Firmly held, at 8s. per lb. on the spot. At auction 8s. per lb. was named as the price for 8 cases of good quality.

MUSK is considerably dearer privately, fine blue skin *Tonguin* pod being exceedingly scarce, and it is said that as much as 100s. would be paid for really fine quality. At auction 15 tins of first pile pods were bought in at 80s., for small to bold partly broken thin grey skin, half-trimmed, heavy backs, 77s. 6d. being the price for this lot. Old-fashioned dry pods, thick skin, and under skin were bought in at 70s., and for one lot of fine thin blue skin a bid of 85s. was reported refused. Of third-pile pods 13 tins were bought in at 50s. per cz. for small to bold fair grey skins, half-trimmed, while for a lot of wet and skinny pods a bid of 23s. per cz. was refused.

MYRRH.—Neglected. Of 42 packages shown to-day, only 2 sold, at 76s. per cwt. for fair native picked.

NITRATE OF SILVER has reached a very low point, and may now be had in moderate wholesale quantities at 1s. 8d. per oz. for crystals, and at 1s. 8½d. per oz. for thin sticks.

OIL (CASTOR).—The reports from Italy are becoming more and more alarming. It is said that not only is there very little oil, but the quality this season is below the average.

OIL (COD-LIVER) continues to decline in price, although very little business is being transacted. At auction 25 casks were bought in at 150s. per barrel.

OIL (OLIVE).—In Italy there has been a considerable and general advance in the price of this article, the new olive-crop having given a very disappointing result. Superior eating oils especially are said to be in very short supply, and a further advance is expected shortly.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—*German* and *Russian* anise oils have been reduced in price in sympathy with the lower quotations for oil of *Star-anise*. Good *German* distilled offers at 6s. 9d.; *Russian* at 7s. 6d. per lb. in 1 lb. bottles. *Coriander* oil is also lower, on account of the reduced value of seed, and the same applies to oil of *Cubeb*s. Foreign qualities are offering at 18s. and 5s. per lb. respectively. *German* drawn oil of *Fennel* easier at 3s. 9d.; *French* ditto 5s. per lb. Oil of *sassafras* is very scarce, and still tending higher. Genuine *American* oil is quoted at 2s. per lb. The new crop *Italian orange* oil is now coming on to the market. The quality is said to be fully up to the average. Of the new-crop *Lemon* oil the first samples are just being received, but several agents are yet without advices. The general opinion, however, is that the market will be lower, good quality offering at 3s. 6d. per lb., f.o.b. At auction 3 cases of new oil were bought in at that price. *Cinnamon* oil in fair supply. Of 10 cases 2 of fair quality sold at 9d. per oz. Of *Eucalyptus* oil no fewer than 114 cases of various brands were offered, but only 2 cases of *Globulus* sold at 1s. 8d. per lb. For *Platypus* oil 2s. per lb. is the limit. Distilled *West Indian lime* oil is gradually coming down in price. At auction 6 cases were bought in at from 3s. to 4s. per lb. Nine cases *Japan peppermint* oil containing over 40 per cent. of menthol, were bought in at 5s. 9d. per lb. Four cases *Ylang ylang* sold very cheaply, without reserve, at 1s. per lb.

OPIUM.—The London market remains quiet, although a little more business has been transacted this week, especially in *Soft-shipping* qualities and in *Persian* gum. The quotations run from 11s. 6d. to 13s. per lb. for good to fine *Soft-shipping*, 8s. 9d. to 9s. 3d. for good to fine *Smyrna*, 8s. to 8s. 6d. for *Druggists'* seconds, and from 9s. to 10s. 6d. for medium to fine *Persian*.

ORRIS-ROOT is quoted decidedly lower both in this market and in Italy. From Italy quotations reach us of 61s. per cwt., f.o.b. *Leghorn*, for picked *Florentine*; 56s., f.o.b., for *Florentine* sorts; and from 48s. 6d. up to 52s. 6d. for *Verona* root, according to quality. In London 72s. 6d. per cwt. is still asked for best picked *Florentine*.

QUICKSILVER is dull, and slightly lower in secondhand. Importers still quote 6l. 12s. 6d., but other holders offer at 6l. 10s. per bottle.

QUININE.—Extremely flat; secondhand holders would be willing to sell below 9d. per lb. for either B. & S. or *Brunswick*, but there are no buyers. There has been very little business, however. The following are now the makers' prices:—*Howards'*, in tins, 10d. to 11d.; in *vial*, 1s. to 1s. 1d. *German* brands, in tins, 9½d. per oz. At auction 2000 oz. of the new *French T and B* brand in 100-cz. tins were offered. It was said to contain 85.15 per cent. of sulphate of quinine and 14.85 per cent. of water. The limit was 9d. per oz., but there were no offers.

RHUBARB.—The demand was very slow, and of 90 cases offered, only 21 sold with some difficulty. *Shensi*, medium to bold round root was bought in at from 2s. 3d. to 3s. per lb. A parcel of round small rough-coated very wormy, even pinky fracture, sold without reserve at 9½d. to 10d. per lb. Small to medium flat *Canton* fair coat, grey fracture, realised from 9d. to 10d. per lb. For flat *High-dried* dull coat, pinky grey fracture, 10d. was paid, while for small flat *High-dried* a bid of 9d. is to be submitted.

SARSAPARILLA.—The recent arrival, to which we referred last week, has proved to almost entirely consist of genuine grey *Jamaica* root. There was no *Lima Jamaica* among it. Of genuine *Jamaica* 48 packages were offered and sold at a decline of 1d. per lb., 1s. 5d. to 1s. 6d. for sound, and from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 5d. for damaged root. Of *Honduras* root 12 serons were shown; 1s. 2d. per lb. is the price for fair root; while damaged sold, subject to approval, at 10½d. per lb. One bale of nice bright native *Jamaica* realised 1s. 5d. per lb.

SCAMMONY.—For fine virgin *Turkish* resin 34s. per lb. is asked to-day, and a bid of 24s. has been refused for seconds. For *Scammony-root* a bid of 25s. per cwt. was rejected at auction.

SENNA.—There have been further arrivals amounting to 509 packages by the *Caledonia* from *Bombay*. At to-day's

auctions about 300 packages Tinevely sold at barely steady prices.

SOY.—Quiet. *Chinese* is selling slowly, at 9½d. per gallon for good quality. At auction 108 cases of good *Chinese* were bought in at 1s. per gallon.

SPICES.—Very dull of sale, although good and fine *Jamaica ginger* remains practically unobtainable, and prices of this variety generally are very high. *Cochin ginger* sold at a decline of 1s.; medium bright cut, 61s. 6d.; ordinary small wormy, native cut, 28s. 6d. to 30s. per cwt. *Pepper* is very dull of sale, and lower for *White*. Fine to superior *Singapore* sold at 4½d. to 5½d., fair *Penang* at 3½d. to 3¾d., and fair *Siam* at 4d. per lb. *Pimento* is also easier, common to good 2½d. to 2¾d. *Cloves* lower, at 2½d. for good bright *Zanzibar*, and from 4½d. to 8½d. for ordinary dull to fine bright picked *Penang*. *Chillies* and *capsicums* dull of sale. *Nutmegs* easier. *Mace* very dull.

THYMOL.—Crystals are still offering at 3s. per lb., but an advance is not unexpected, as it is said that owing to the drought *Ajonan* seeds are very scarce, and have advanced 25 per cent. in price in India.

VANILLA.—Auction to-day included about 230 tins, nearly all Seychelles and Mauritius, with 3 or 4 tins of Fiji vanilla. There was a good demand, and almost the whole sold at a slight improvement in prices.

VARIOUS DRUGS.—*Arca nuts* scarce. None were shown at auction to-day. The last price paid privately is said to have been 15s 6d. per cwt. *Bael fruit* neglected; 12 bags sliced and dry were bought in at 5d., as there was no bid *Tonca beans*: Of 7 packages, only 1 of common quality sold at 7½d. per lb. Good frosty beans were bought in at 3s., dark at 1s. 10d. per lb. Twenty bags lean, partly wormy, *Cassia fistula* pods sold at 5s. 9d. per cwt., and another lot of 30 bags medium quality was bought in at 10s. per cwt. For 8 bales of fair *Cus cus* grass 13s per cwt. is the price. Two bags *Croton seed*, which would have realised rates had they been offered, were not landed in time, and will be offered at the next auctions. Ten cases of *Collier's mustard*, portmarked "Brisbane," were bought in. Thirty bags fair, rather dusty, *Cubeb*s, from Singapore, were bought in at 32s. 6d. per cwt. *Chiretta* is very steady; 3d. is asked for fair herb, and at that figure 10 bales were bought in to-day. Two bags very broken *Damiana-leaves* were bought in at 7d. per lb. Two cases *Guarana* were bought in at 2s. per lb. Twenty cases fair pale *Gum elemi* are held for 25s. per cwt. Six cases *Kamala* were offered, of which 3 of very fine quality realised 9d. per lb., while the others were bought in at 5d. per lb. This shows an easier market. *Loofahs*: To-day's drug sales included 2 bales of rather narrow and dark loofahs from South America. They were unsorted, and put up in one-dozen bundles. No bid was made for them. *Mush seed*: For 2 bags of good quality 1s. per lb. is, we believe, the price. *Squills* in moderate supply. For good pale 4d. per lb. is asked, and for one lot a bid of 3d. was refused. *Jalap*: 7 bales small to bold *Tampico* character held for 6½d. per lb.

WAX (BEES).—Steady, but with little business. Of *Jamaica* wax, which remains in good demand, 29 packages were offered, and mostly sold at from 7l. 17s. 6d. to 8l. 2s. 6d. per cwt. for fair to good bright yellow and red. *Zanzibar* sold readily at from 5l. 17s. 6d. to 6l. 5s., and several packages *Australian* changed hands at 6l. to 6l. 5s. per cwt. For ordinary wormy *Madagascar* from 5l. 15s. 6d. to 6l. was accepted. Two cases *Cape* were sold at 6l. 15s., and a parcel of pale bleached *Calcutta* sold cheaply, without reserve, at 6l. per cwt.

WAX (JAPAN).—The prices were maintained with difficulty, and it would be possible to buy on the spot to-day at 47s. 6d. per cwt. for good pale squares.

The Market in Heavy Chemicals.

A somewhat quieter tendency is to be noted in the condition of the heavy-chemical market, but prices on the whole are fairly well maintained, and alterations in value of any consequence are few. The Board of Trade returns for November and for the eleven months ending November 30 show a considerable decrease in the exports of alkali as

compared with November, 1894 and 1895, mainly attributable to the smaller quantity shipped to the States, the figures being rather less than half the quantity last year. *Benzols* are flat and have again declined—90 per cent., December, 3s. 3d.; January-March delivery, 3s.; 50 per cent. prompt. 2s. 6d.; January-March delivery, 2s. 6d. *Sulphate of copper* is firm and in active demand, but prices are not quite so high as mentioned last week. *Anchor*; 17l. 15s.; *Liverpool*, 17l. 10s.; January-April, 17l. 15s. *Bleaching-powder* and *Caustic soda* continue to move steadily. *Soda crystals* in moderate demand. *Recovered sulphur*, owing to its scarcity, continues firm at 5l. *Sulphate of ammonia* flat, and prices are lower—Beckton terms, 7l. 7s. 6d.; Leith, 7l. 6s. 3d.; Hull, 7l. 7s. 6d.; London, 7l. 12s. 6d. Exports from Leith last week amounted to 344 tons. *Cream of tartar* is dearer again; powdered 82s., crystals 80s. *Chlorate of potash* is perhaps a trifle firmer at 4d. *Chlorate of soda* selling freely on contract for next year at 5d. *Bichromates of potash* and *soda* firm. *Salleake* in better demand. *Linseed-cakes* continue quiet at 6l. 5s. *Cottonseed-cakes* slow of sale; quotations, 4l. 5s. to 4l. 7s. 6d. *Pitch* continues dull. *Yellow Prussiate of potash* quiet; Beckton, 5½d. *White powdered Arsenic* in strong request.

The Liverpool Drug-market.

Our Liverpool correspondent, writing on December 9 says that the market for *Castor oil* is sluggish, and with but little business passing in good seeds. *Calcutta seconds*, 3½d. First pressing *French* is held for 3½d., second pressing at 3½d., and *Madras good seconds* 3½d. During the past few days a somewhat better tone has prevailed, and the upward movement may be resumed at an early date. For gums there is rather an inactive market for *Soudan sorts*. Quotations show no change; values range from 65s. to 85s. per cwt. Medium qualities are alike rather idle, but this is partly attributable to the meagre selection offering, as there are regular inquiries here for serviceable kinds of which there is no stock. *Potashes* are practically unchanged, at 21s. 3d. to 21s. 6d., and *pearlashes* are held at 32s. 6d. to 35s. per cwt. Of *Black Tenerife Cochinal* sales have been made during the week at 1s 2d. per lb. Of *Kola-nuts*, several packages offered at auction; one of 5 tons which found no buyers, no bids at all being made; holders' idea of the value was from 4d. to 4½d. per lb. *Spermaceti* (Chilian) is firmly held at 1s. 5d. per lb., with little or no business passing. *Canary seed* quiet for the moment, and the value of good bright *Turkish* may be taken at 28s. to 29s. per quarter. *Beeswax* in somewhat better demand, and importers are advancing their views materially, and Chilian may be considered 2s. 6d. to 5s. per cwt. dearer. The stocks of *Gambia*, W.C.A., on the other hand, are accumulating; during the week 44 ballots sold at 6l. 7s. 6d.

The Hamburg Drug-market.

Our correspondent writes on December 8:—"Business continued very quiet this week; the number of the dock-labourers on strike has increased now to about 18,000 men, and, consequently the work in our docks is proceeding very slowly. The changes in our drug-market were few. *Agar agar* is a shade easier, and can be bought again to-day at 270m. per 100 kilos. *Antimony* is unchanged at 38m. per 100 kilos. *Acid (tartaric)* flat at about 220m. per 100 kilos. *Balsam copaiba* is still firm at 3.90m. per kilo. for genuine Maracaibo. *Balsam Peru* is a little weaker at 16½m. per kilo. *Balsam Tolu* is dull 5.75m. per kilo. *Cape aloes* very quiet at 45m. to 46m. per 100 kilos. *Camphor* is neglected; the first hand asks 325m. per 100 kilos, while there are secondhand sellers at 305m. *Chlorate of potash* is unchanged; quiet, at 76½m. to 77m. per 100 kilos. *Ergot of rye* does not yet show any signs of improvement; prices vary from 90m. to 100m. per 100 kilos, according to quality. *Coca-leaves* are quiet, and freely offering at 140m. to 150m. per 100 kilos. (Bolivian). *Cassia lignea* firm; some 1882 crop changed hands at equal to about 34s. 6d. *Glycerine* steady at unchanged prices. *Menthol* very firm; spot demands 19m. to 20m. per kilo. *Star-anise seed* is very firm for spot delivery, and demands 220m. per 100 kilos, while for shipment can be bought at 195m. per 100 kilos. *Russian anise seed* is firm, at 23m. to 30m. per 100 kilos. *Malta Cumin seed* flat, and offering cheaper, at 41m. to 42m. per 100 kilos. *Lycopodium* easier, at 270m. to 265m. per 100 kilos."



Memoranda for Correspondents.

In letters for publication correspondents are requested to express their views as concisely as possible.

Correspondents should write on one side of the paper only, and devote a separate piece of paper to each subject of inquiry.

The name and address of the writer should accompany all communications with, if desired, a distinctive nom-de-plume.

The P.A.T.A.

SIR,—I regret that Mr. Day renders it necessary that I should again trespass upon your space. In his former letter he asked me a series of questions, as he then stated, "in the interests of all who have signed the P.A.T.A. agreement." I supposed that it was on this ground, of general interest to the other signatories, that Mr. Day presumed to ask you to afford so much space for this discussion. Seeing that, so far as I know, none of the other firms who had signed our agreement had any quarrel with us, I declined to recognise in Mr. Day the champion of the trade, or to discuss the general question with him.

Now he says it is the behaviour of our Council towards him and the company which he represents that he complains of, and the explanation is due to him. It is little use Mr. Day's attempting to draw me into a discussion with him upon points of detail in connection with what has taken place between his firm and the P.A.T.A., or to expect me to tell him exactly what I think as to his initial action in the matter. He seems to have a poor estimate of what he pleases to term the "brains" of the Association. Mr. Day signed our first agreement. On the strength of that agreement he bought for cash almost a year's supply of the principal article then on the list. He says he did this as a precaution, showing that he quite expected to have difficulties placed in his way of procuring further supplies. Having obtained these goods, he commenced labelling them in a manner calculated to damage the sales and to frighten off all other proprietors intending to protect. He plainly intimated that it was to be "Day *versus* the P.A.T.A." We took the only course open to us and one he evidently expected us to take—by treating him as an opponent and withholding supplies.

Does Mr. Day think for one moment we were idiotic enough to say to such an opponent:—"Dear Mr. Day,—We notice you are going to fight, and consequently we tremble. We are sorry you are doing what you can to damage the sales of our articles. Next week we are going to add several more articles to our list. We send you the list. Will you please sign an agreement not to cut these, or label them in the manner you threaten? If you don't, we will put you on the black list next week. Please don't be unkind enough to take advantage of us by buying up these articles before next week—that is, before we try and stop you buying." We did not give him a chance to forestall us, and in thus acting consulted the best interests of the whole trade. I again say I am sorry Mr. Day feels vexed at being checkmated, but he has no grounds for complaint. He declared himself an active opponent, and has been treated as such. I have no doubt when Mr. Day chooses to adopt some other attitude our Association would be prepared to consider any proposals he may have to make.

I am Sir, yours, &c.,

2 and 3 Stonecutter Street, W. S. GLYN-JONES.
London E.C., December 8.

The "Article Club" Debate.

SIR,—In your able report in to-day's issue, page 823, you make me say, "A gentleman connected with my own trade (that of brushmaking) was lately fined for causing foreign-made brushes to be stamped as English."

Pardon me, but I do not think I mentioned the word

"brush" once in my speech. If I did it could not have been then, because I know of no such case relating to brushes.

I drew my illustration from an allied trade, where the workmen instituted the prosecution.

I was specially careful not to use the office of chairman to allude to my own trade, and I ask you kindly to insert this so that my friends in that trade may not search for the case referred to. I am Sir, yours obediently,

G. HAROLD KENT,

London, December 5.

Chairman at the Debate.

More Daylight and a Little Moonshine.

THE WRATH OF WILLIAM.

Now a knight there was, by name Glyn-Jones,
Who strove to overthrow the thrones
Of Cutter Kings—whose sway he owns

Has crushed his brethren sorely;
And so he sought both day and night
To right the wrong and crush the might,
Of philanthropic foes who fight

For mankind—less or morely;
He raised the P.A.T.A. flag,
Which caused sage Wisdom's head to wag,
And roused—like bull and crimson flag—

The ireful wrath of William.
(Now a fearful thing it is to ag-
gravate the wrath of William.)

So William wrote to C. & D.,
And proved that all posterities
Most dolefully their weird would dree,
Should Jones get them securely.

With wrath and scorn and "inky cloud,"
And "Vehmgerichte"; virtue cowed,
And columns twain of protest proud
(At which we smile demurely),

He wrote; in hopes that you and I
And brethren all are swallowed by
His "Herculeum-Pompei".

Grandiloquent volcano.
(Instead, we wink a wakeful eye;
Alas! for William's reign, oh!)

With pathos deep his pen implored:
All thinking men 't' shun th' abhorred
And wicked P.A.T.A. Board,
Who cherish schemes unhealthy.

For every scheme which don't agree
With William's views is bound to be
A wrongful one, for—don't you see?—
It can't make William wealthy.

So, waxing brave with gathering wrath,
He sweeps the Jones from off his path
With all the dignity he hath,

And shouts for explanation.
(All bunkum, bluff, and likewise bath-
os, William's indignation.)

W. C.

Preservation of Lard.

SIR,—Our attention has been called to a paragraph in your issue of November 28, in which "formaldehyde" is recommended as a preservative for lard, and experimental tests with that and benzoïn quoted. These we consider most inadequate, for if the lard had been good and properly clarified it would not have become rancid in three months, even without any preservative; and the "carefully-prepared benzoated lard" that became "distinctly rancid" in three months must have been a very inferior article.

Our experience (of over sixty years) is that pure clarified lard will keep sweet for from six to twelve months at least, and if benzoated with gum benzoïn (*not benzoic acid*) it will be free from rancidity at the end of five or six years. We have some in stock that was benzoated in the small proportion of only 10 grs. to the pound (against B.P. strength of 140 grains) more than three years ago and is still sweet. Should any of your readers wish to test the properties of

formaldehyde, we shall be pleased to supply lard treated with it.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES EWEN & SONS.

5, Hatfield Street, Blackfriars,
December 9.

The Purity Tests for Otto of Rose.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. Eugene V. Barrett's comments on my paper on the above subject, I can assure him that I have not fallen into "a serious error" in the optical rotation figure of -99° which I gave for geranium oil in my communication on otto of rose to the Liverpool Chemists' Association. The sample of oil worked upon was a French one, with an optical rotation of -99° , and with this oil I showed that otto of rose could be adulterated to the extent of 5.5 per cent., and still be within the optical rotation figures of -23 to -27 , or with an unlimited amount if the rotation figures of the oil be rectified by the addition of 5 per cent. of citrene, as described in my note.

Mr. Barrett is in the fortunate position of having in his possession a sample of Turkish geranium oil specially obtained from the rose districts. The optical rotation of this he gives as $-0^\circ 20'$ (equivalent, in decimals, to -0.33). In regard to the optical rotation of otto of rose, he tells us that the figures of the purest samples he has been able to obtain are $-2^\circ 30'$ to $3^\circ 30'$ (equal to 2.5 to 3.5), with a very strong presumption in favour of the latter figure.

I do not in any way dispute Mr. Barrett's figures, nor have I the least prejudice against physical constants as tests generally; but I do maintain that the limits given in the case of otto of rose are so wide, and the constants so easily circumvented that, as tests, they are practically useless. Personally, I wish it were otherwise, for I would then be relieved of a great amount of responsibility in testing otto. Let me now take Mr. Barrett's own figures, and see how they work out by alligation. He gives:—

Otto-of-rose—optical rotation	..	-2.5 to -3.5
Turkish geranium oil	..	-0.33
		2.50
3.50		0.33
2.17		1.00

This shows that 2.17 of otto of rose of -3.5 optical rotation requires 1.0 of this special geranium oil of -0.33 optical rotation to reduce it to Mr. Barrett's minimum of -2.5 . This is equal to 31.5 per cent. of geranium oil from the rose district. The limit, however, need not be here, as this Turkish oil of -0.33 optical rotation can be made to have the exact rotation of pure otto by adding to it sufficient French or Algerian geranium oil.

Thus, if we mix one part of French geranium oil having an optical rotation of -99 with two parts of Mr. Barrett's Turkish sample having an optical rotation of -0.33 , we get a mixture with an optical rotation of -3.52

$$\begin{array}{r} 1 \text{ at } 99 = 99 \\ 2 \text{ at } 0.33 = .66 \\ \hline 310.66 \\ 302 \end{array}$$

The optical rotation can, in fact, be made anything required. I quite agree with Mr. Barrett's remark in regard to the "intimate interdependence" of the three physical constants as tests, and this point was fully borne in mind in writing my recent "Note on Otto of Rose."

Liverpool, December 6.

M. CONROY.

Ichthyol.

Mr. Max Hilbert (248/66), referring to our note on the discovery of new ichthyol deposits, points out that the existing ichthyol beds in the Tyrol have been known for more than eleven years. So they have, and the product has been advertised in this journal for several years. The word "just" in our report was an error; it should have been "only." Mr. Hilbert informs us that Mr. Schöder, of Hamburg, accidentally discovered the layers on a loop in the Tyrol, and was led to turn them to commercial account by Dr. Unna, of Hamburg.

MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

244/14. *E. E. J.*—It is not usual for us to express an opinion upon the quality of medicines submitted to us, but owing to the unusual circumstances in your case, and the fact that "this is your first time," we have examined your Ipecacuanha-wine. You have nothing to fear in respect to it. It is a good sample, of average alkaloidal strength, and free from salicylic acid or other objectionable preservative. The fact that it has deposited does not matter much, because none of the active principle is found in the deposit. We expect that the Sale of Food and Drugs Act inspector bought the sample in order to see whether it contained any salicylic acid or not.

231/8 *Dubious* sends three samples of Linen-glazes. No. 1 we find to be a mixture of powdered borax 7 parts, French chalk 2 parts, and hard paraffin 1 part. Melt the paraffin, and mix the chalk with it. When cold, rub up with the borax. Nos. 2 and 3 are used together, but how "Dubious" does not say. We should receive full information as to the use of things that are sent for report. No. 2 is a mixture of French chalk 7 parts and cocoanut-oil soap (dried and powdered) 2 parts. No. 3 is French chalk alone.

231/17. *Dewsburyan's* contribution to this department is a Flavouring for Hop and Ginger Ales. It is a brown liquid, which we should endeavour to imitate with the following formula:—

Oil of bergamot	..	..	..	..	5i.
Oil of lemon	..	..	..	..	3i.
Rectified spirit	..	..	..	..	3vi.
Fullers' earth	..	..	..	..	3iij.

Shake occasionally for an hour or two, then add—

Caramel	..	..	..	..	5j.
Essence of apricot	..	..	..	..	3iij.
Water	..	..	..	..	3j.

After standing a day, with occasional shaking, filter, and bring up the colour if necessary with caramel.

224/43. *Nux Vomica*.—Thanks for your specimen of capsicums with weevils feeding upon them. They (the weevils) have surely come home in some old Indian service officer's trunk.

232/82. *Ferrum*.—The incrustation from the hot-air pipes consists chiefly of calcium carbonate. Apparently the water or steam gets in contact with the piping. You cannot remove it by chemical means.

232/37. *Juno*.—(1) The red-water cure is something in which spirit of turpentine is used as the menstruum. It is, in fact, coloured spirit of turpentine, but what the colouring-matter is we cannot say, and could only ascertain by an expenditure of time in value far beyond the worth of the article. (2) The Asthma-powder has approximately the following composition:—

Pulv. conii fol.	..	..	..	..	3ss.
Pulv. stramonii	..	..	..	..	3j.
Pulv. potas. nit.	..	..	..	..	3iv.

M.

233/50. *Pulvis*.—The Washing and Disinfecting Powder used in dairies, &c., for cleaning utensils is dried carbonate of soda. We can find nothing else in it, but it is good enough for the purpose—in fact, could not be much improved upon. Isn't it strange how simple things may get a big reputation provided one gives them a "pat" name, puffs them well, and does not sell too cheap?

240/55. *W. G. B.*—We understand that the tinning of brass screws is done in the same way as sheet iron is tinned—viz., by dipping in the molten metal; but this is somewhat out of our line.

205/8. *W. S.*—(1) Your sample of Puff powder is a mixture of the light variety of precipitated chalk with a little boric acid. (2) We can only refer you to remarks we made on the subject of a marking ink like your sample on March 28, page 472, and October 24, page 634.

235/54 *Ambleside.*—Poultry-spice.—Your sample seems to be composed largely of grinding gruffs, and unless you can get them you will not be able to match it exactly. We think the following should come fairly near it:—Anise 1, pimento, cassia, and gentian of each 2, liquorice 15. A heaped tablespoonful to be added to 2 lbs. of barley-meal.

233/26. *Delto.*—The soapy mixture containing palm oil, tannic acid, oleic acid, &c., darkens through oxidation chiefly, and the only way to prevent it is to exclude the air. In spite of that you must be prepared for some change, owing to alteration of the tannin.

233/69. *Cremicus.*—Harness composition:—

Yellow wax	5vj.
Mutton suet	3ij.
Melt together and add cautiously—	
Oil of turpentine	5v.
Then mix with the following by diligent stirring:—	
Sugar-candy powdered	5vj.
Lampblack	3iiss.
Prussian blue	5ss.
Soft soap	3ij.

235/13. *A. P. G.*—Messrs. Hopkin & Williams or Harrington Brothers may be able to supply you with the rare earthen for incandescent mantles, but you should be careful how you meddle with that subject, as it is closely hedged round with patents.

We have several columns of replies in type which, with further analytical reports, will be inserted next week.

INFORMATION SUPPLIED.

Wine-making—In reply to 214/65 Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co. write to inform us that a book on wine-making was published a few weeks ago by Mr. J. Forbes Henderson, 153 Albert Street, Dundee, price 10s.

Insects in Drugs.—It rarely happens that we get living information, but this week we have to acknowledge the receipt from Mr. Henry Davis (Newbury) of a boxful of interesting insects which, he says, were found in a bottle of "Pulv. Fol. Hyoscy. Bienn." It was a 2-lb. bottle, about half full and corked down tight; it had not been opened for about a year. The insects are thick on the top of the drug, and seem to be waxing fat on it. Our entomological expert has identified the grub as the *Niphus hololeucus*, and says that they feed on almost any dry matter.

C. & D. DIARY.—In the recipe for "Chlorodyne" given in the DIARY (page 266) a slip has been made in the second portion, where it says, "Aq. ad 3ijj," which should be "Aq. ad 5viij."

ALEX. O. FINDLAY.

[Will subscribers please make this correction. Also under Liq. eastoni for "iron wire, 3iiss," read 5iiss.]

INFORMATION WANTED.

The Editor invites, on behalf of inquiring subscribers, postcard replies to the following:—

247/73. Makers of pill-boxes with labels printed on lids.

248/55. Makers of wooden divided boxes similar to those in which Adams's furniture-polish is put.

Coming Events.

Notices of Association and Society meetings will be inserted in this section free of charge if we receive intimation of such meetings by Wednesday of the week previous to that in which the meetings are to be held.

Saturday, December 12.

Pharmaceutical Football Club v. South London School of Pharmacy ("Muter's"), at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush. Kick-off at 3. Train from Gower Street (Metropolitan Railway) at 1.57 and 2.7.

Tuesday, December 15.

Royal Photographic Society, 12 Hanover Square, W., at 8 P.M. "Some Probable Causes of Trouble in Photo-engraving," with demonstrations of methods for their detection, by Mr. Andrew Wybrandt Penrose.

Bradford Chemists' Association, Leuchter's Restaurant, Darley Street. Smoking Concert.

Wednesday, December 16.

Western Chemists' Association (of London), Westbourne Restaurant, 1 Craven Road, W., at 9 P.M. Inaugural Address by the President (Mr. J. W. Taplin).

Brighton Junior Association of Pharmacy, Newburg Hall, at 9 P.M. Social and Musical Evening; Chairman, Mr. C. G. Yates.

Midland Chemists' Assistants' Association Exchange Rooms, Birmingham, at 9.15 P.M. "Laboratory Notes," by Mr. John Barclay, B.Sc.

Society of Chemical Industry, Nottingham Section, Midland Hotel, Derby, at 7.30 P.M. Papers to be read: "Some Properties of certain Metallic Phosphates," by R. M. Caven, B.Sc., and Alfred Hill; "The Filtration of Sewage through Coke Breeze," by S. F. Barford, F.C.S., and Thos. Reader Smith, Assoc. Mem. Inst. C.E.

Thursday, December 17.

Chemists' Assistants' Association, 103 Great Russell Street W.C., at 8.30 P.M. Musical and Social Evening.

Glasgow and West of Scotland Pharmaceutical Association, 207 Bath Street, Glasgow, at 9.15 P.M. Mr. W. L. Howie on "From Moot Blanc to the Matterhorn" (limelight lecture).

Chemical Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W. at 8 P.M. Papers to be read:—"On the Experimental Methods Employed in the Examination of the Products of Starch-hydrolysis," Horace T. Brown, F.R.S. G. H. Morris, Ph.D., and W. H. Millar; "On the Specific Rotation of Maltose and of Soluble Starch," Horace T. Brown, F.R.S., G. H. Morris, Ph.D., and W. H. Millar. "On the Relation of the Specific Rotatory and Capric-reducing Powers of Starch-hydrolysis by Diastase," Horace T. Brown, F.R.S., G. H. Morris, Ph.D., and W. H. Millar.

Friday, December 18.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association, 36 York Place, at 9.15 P.M. Apprentices' Night. "Pearl-coating Pills," by James Gould; "Ointments," by George Syme; "The Embryo Pharmacist," by Wm. Center; "Dispensing Notes," by L. S. Lamb.

The Prince of Wales will, on the afternoon of Tuesday, December 22, open the Davy-Faraday Research Laboratory of the Royal Institution, founded by Dr. Ludwig Mond, F.R.S., as a memorial of Davy and Faraday. The ceremony will take place in the theatre of the Royal Institution, where, by desire of his Royal Highness, Professor Dewar will, after the opening ceremony, show experiments illustrative of the use of liquid air in scientific research.

The Midland Pharmaceutical Association's twenty-fourth annual ball will be held in the new ball-room of the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on Thursday, January 21, 1897.

The 16th Junior Pharmacy Ball is to be held at the Portman Rooms, on Wednesday, February 16, 1897. Those who are willing to be stewards should apply to Mr. H. Arliss Robinson, Hon. Secretary, 29 Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, S.W.